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The Brooke County School System congratulates
the 2016 Teacher of the Year nominees:

Quitman : Development of Residential Neighborhoods

The southeast section of what became present day Quitman-from Lee street southeast- was the area where the first houses were built in the new town.

After the town was laid out and the Courthouse Square was established and construction of the Courthouse began, houses began to be built around the Square.

Most houses on West Screven were built between 1880 and the early 1900s. During this time , the oaks were planted on North and South Court Streets. Houses were scattered along North Street from the 1890s through the 1920s. South Court was a residential street with no commercial buildings planned beyond the first block. In 1866, the Presbyterian Church was located on the west side of the second block until 1909. Very few houses remain today.

Residences were built on West Lafayette 1890s-early 1900s ; East Lafayette 1910-through the 1920s ; North Lee 1900-1920s. Quitman had a building boom in the early 1900s.

Sunset Park – this subdivision began in 1954 with two streets built around a lake formed by water drained from the West End Ice Plant. It is located off Hwy 84 West.

Old Madison Road – this development began in 1959 on land that was part of the Henry Grey Turner property [Morton] . All lots face the highway.

West Acres - this development, begun in 1963 by H. N. West, joins but is not connected to the Sunset Park subdivision. Originally, it had only two streets, Plantation and Magnolia. Later , it was extended west to Dunn Road.

Bennet Woods - this subdivision, built on a tract of land owned by Miss Louise Bennet in the northwest section of Quitman, was begun in 1965 and was developed along its only street, Pinewood Drive. Later, the western end of Rountree Street became a part of this development.



Nocturne

The Henry Gray Turner Home

COMPILED BY JOHN RIDDLE | PHOTOGRAPHY BY NANCY O'BRIEN, SUNLIGHT PHOTOS



At the end of a quarter-mile drive off Old Madison Road amid a grove of hundred year old live oaks, hickory, and magnolia trees sits a majestic home which its builder, Henry Gray Turner, called "Nocturne". Built in 1892, the house and grounds, which originally consisted of 150 acres, were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 for their significance in historic architecture, landscape design, and political and judicial history.



Brooks County Living Magazine would like to thank the owners of Nocturne, Brett Copeland and Douglas Johnson, for opening their beautiful home and sharing the story of Nocturne with us. We also would like to thank Chuck Ramsey for coordinating this effort and providing the photography from Nancy O'Brien, Sunlight Photography.

Some unique exterior elements are the paired cigar columns on pedestals surrounding the porch and supporting the large pediment over the main entrance, the metal scrollwork, swags and garlands in the porch pediment and balcony entablature, and the grouped modillion blocks over the windows.





"Nocturne" is approximately 6,000 square feet and most all of the original details remain with only minor changes to the original floor plan. The woodwork has never been painted.



The interior has 13 foot ceilings on the first floor and twelve foot ceilings on the second floor, crown and picture moldings, five sets of double pocket doors, eight corner fireplaces with original mantles, fireplaces in the entrance hall and kitchen, a built-in curly pine mirrored sideboard in the dining room, two full height walk-out windows, and full transoms over all hinged doors. There are working speaking tubes from several areas of the house to the kitchen, and an original bathroom on the second floor contains all of its original fixtures including the toilet, sink and zinc covered copper bathtub.





The grounds now consist of twenty-five acres planted with live oaks, hickory, magnolias, and palms. When Turner built his home, he removed all of the native pine trees and replaced them with live oak, hickory, and magnolia, which was an unusual landscape for this part of the country. His idea was to transplant the surroundings of his youth in NC to his new home in South Georgia. Other structures on the property include the original smokehouse, a later carriage house, a large party house, a barn, and a two bedroom guest house created from two original servants' houses





Regarding Henry Gray Turner's later years at Nocturne, an editorial in the *Atlanta Journal* stated:

Here is a man passing a tranquil existence with his family and his library. Every morning he looks with satisfaction upon his beautiful trees. A visit to Mr. Turner in his home is a privilege and recalls the lines of Goldsmith: "How blest it is to end in shades like these a life of labor with an age of ease."



Henry Gray Turner was born in 1839 in North Carolina, attended the University of Virginia and moved to Quitman in 1857 to be Headmaster of Piscola Academy, a private boys' school in Brooks County, Georgia. He remained Headmaster until 1861 when he left to fight in the Civil War with the Savannah Volunteer Guards. He eventually became captain of a company of North Carolinians and led his men at Mechanicsville, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. At Gettysburg he was wounded, left for dead, and eventually captured. He was imprisoned for 18 months and in 1864 was discharged and sent to Richmond as a disabled soldier unfit for military service. He slowly made his way back to Quitman where he married. He was admitted to the Georgia Bar in 1865, served in the Georgia State House of Representatives from 1874-1878, and was a member of the US House of Representatives from 1880-1896. At the time, he was named one of the six greatest men in Congress and served as Chairman of the Committee on Elections and on the Ways and Means Committee. In 1903 Turner was appointed to the Georgia Supreme Court. He died soon after on June 9, 1904. When his widow died in 1911, their bachelor son S. Morton Turner inherited the house and lived there until his death in 1960. He is buried at West End Cemetery in Quitman.



Alan Groover – Dukes.....six miles south of Quitman and one half mile off US Highway 221 west of Hickory Head Church

Built prior to 1860 with six rooms and wide hallway. Two rooms were added later creating the ell-shape structure it is today.

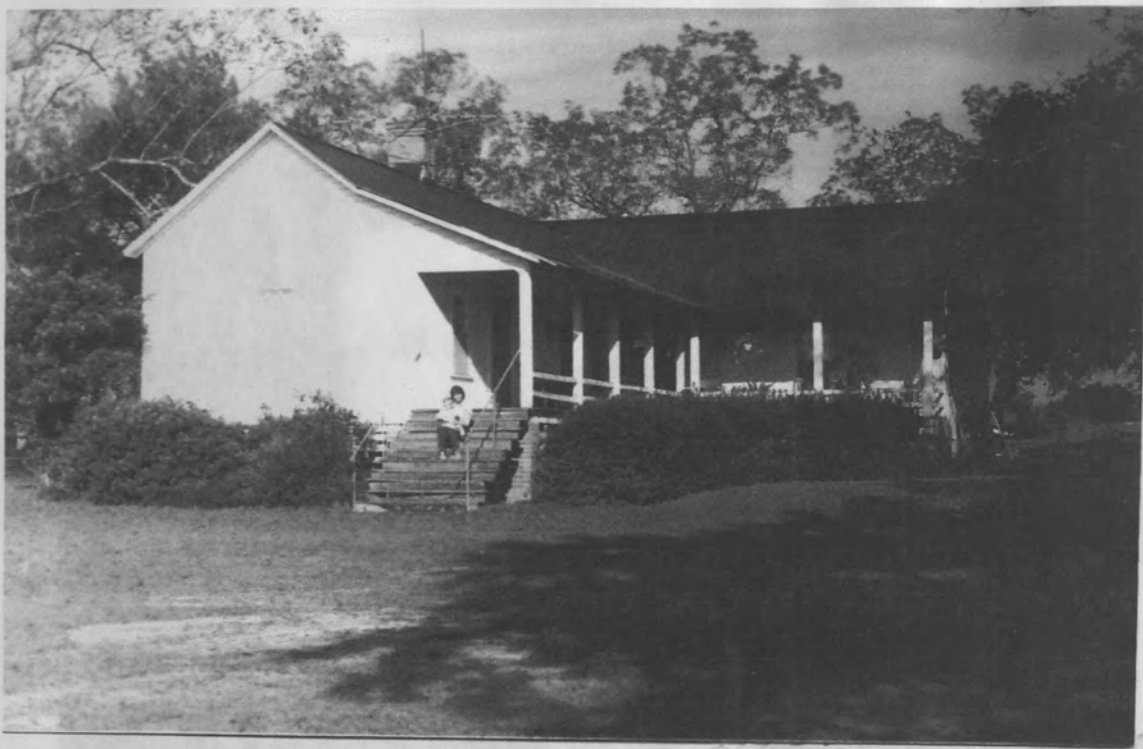


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Jones - Williams - Walker - Bower.....circa 1848

This old house, which had fallen into disrepair over the years, has been restored as the above picture reflects. It is a sturdy country house made of wide heart pine boards. It is often referred to as "Sea Pond" named for a pond on the property which has clear blue water. In the past this pond was used as a baptismal site by the Hickory Head Baptist Church.





Renfroe - Bass - Wilson.....1800's

The original four room house was purchased in 1898 by R. Renfroe who remodeled and expanded in 1927. It was purchased by James Pope Bass who added modern conveniences and gave the house and farm the name "Longview Farm".



Jordan - Land ...circa 1900.....718 Barwick Rd.



824 Barwick Road.....circa 1840 - 1880

Barker bought this house in the 1900's. It is owned today by a granddaughter. The original owner is unknown, and it was well outside of the City Limits at that time.



Ives/Baker.....circa 1900.....1783 Barwick Rd.



Ralph Barker – Ronald Barker..1903.....2234 Barwick Rd.

Brooks County

Board of Tax Assessors

Building Photo 1



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Ralph Barker - Ronald Barker 1907.....2334 Barwick Rd.

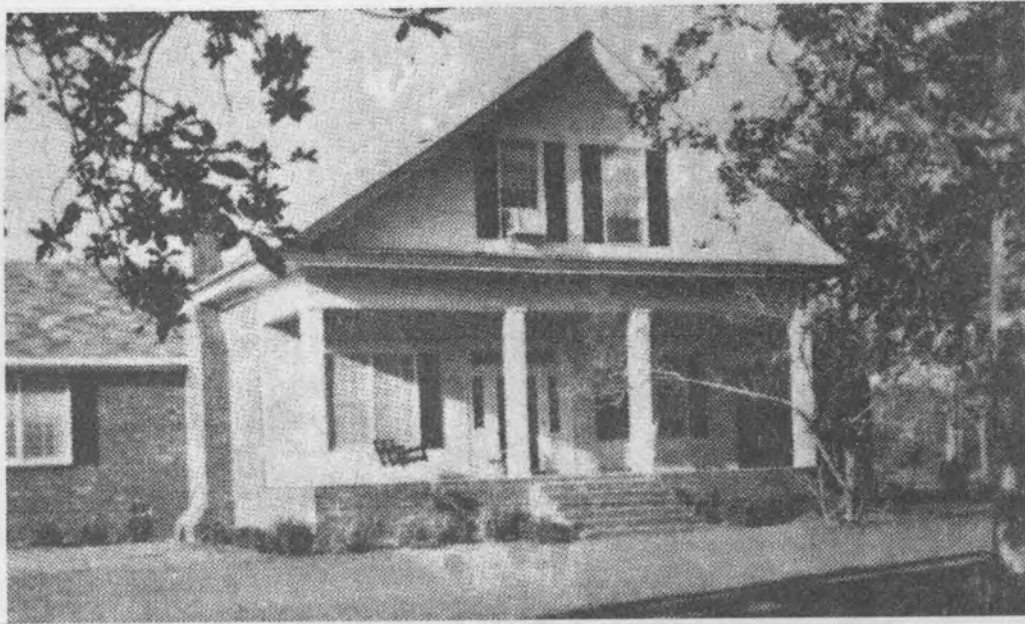


Elsberry - Spivey...built 1910.....2356 Barwick Rd.



Mathews - Jones2870 Barwick Road

This craftsman house was built around 1917 by the Mathews family. Johnny and Janie Jones bought the property in 1979 and have remodeled and restored the house.



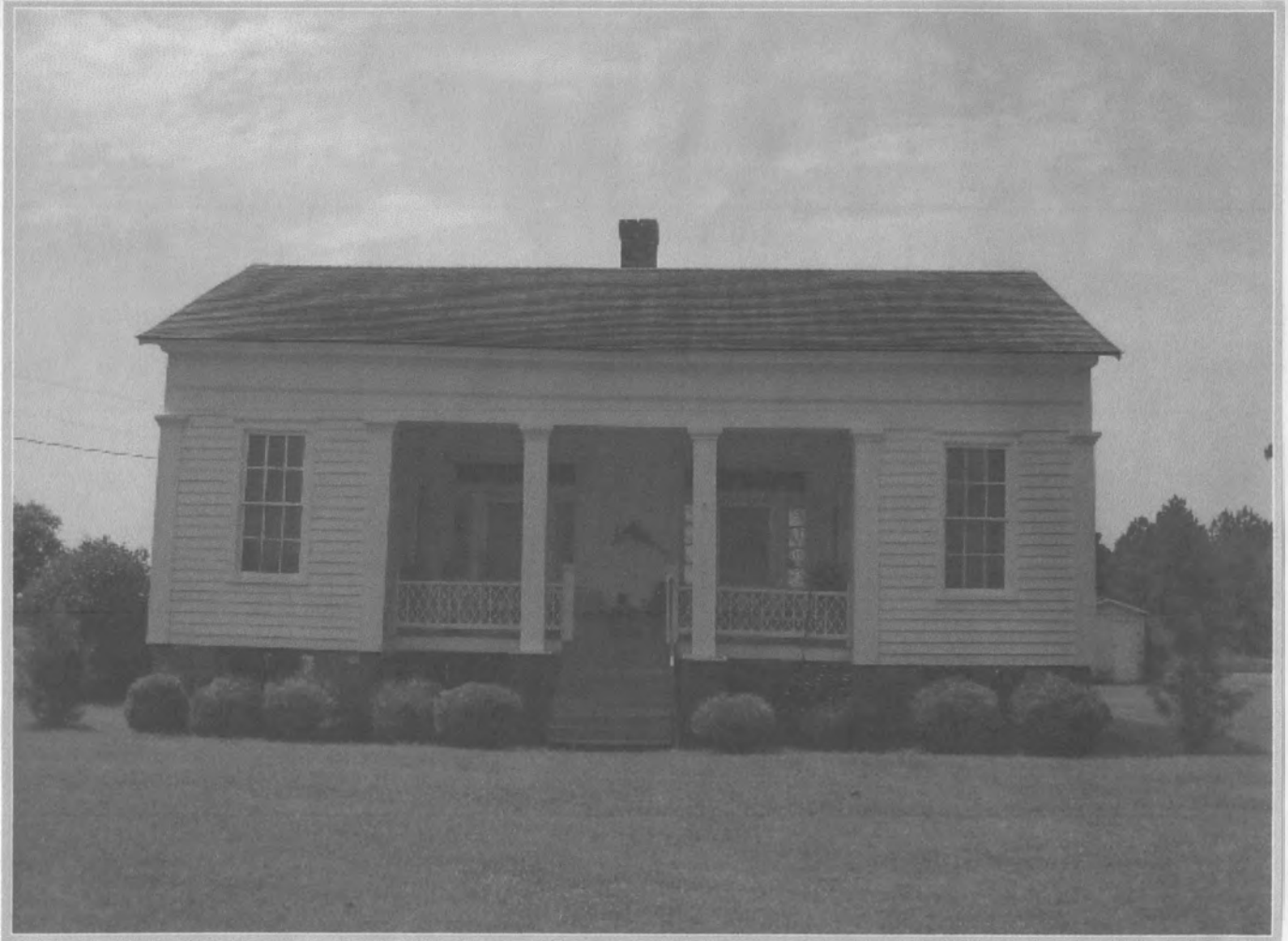
Groover – Boring – Winter – Jones...1851.....5207 Dixie Rd.
Charlie Groover built this two story frame house made of hand hewn logs held together with wooden pegs. Dr. Thomas Boring bought the property in 1876 and it has remained in the family since that time. Now in 2013 it belongs to Dr. Baring's great, great, great, granddaughter Elizabeth Jones.



**1432 Dixie Barwick Road.....1890's
Shiver - DeSantiago**

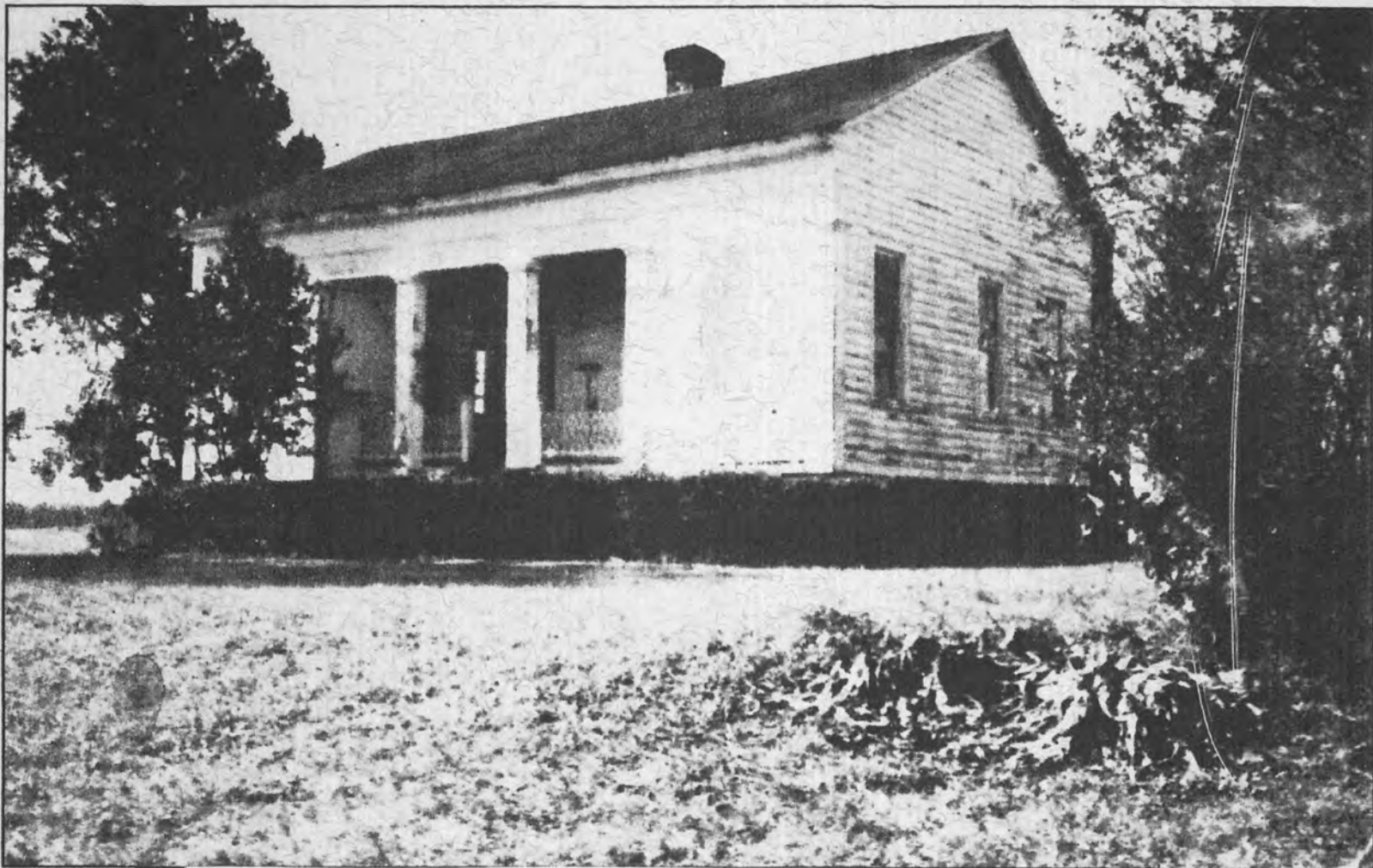
This house was built by J. B. Shiver and was located originally on the Quitman-Morven Road. In 1983, Xavier and Beth Stewart DeSantiago bought the house and moved it to a site on Stewart family land on the Dixie-Barwick Road. They have made some additions and renovations all in keeping with the original construction.





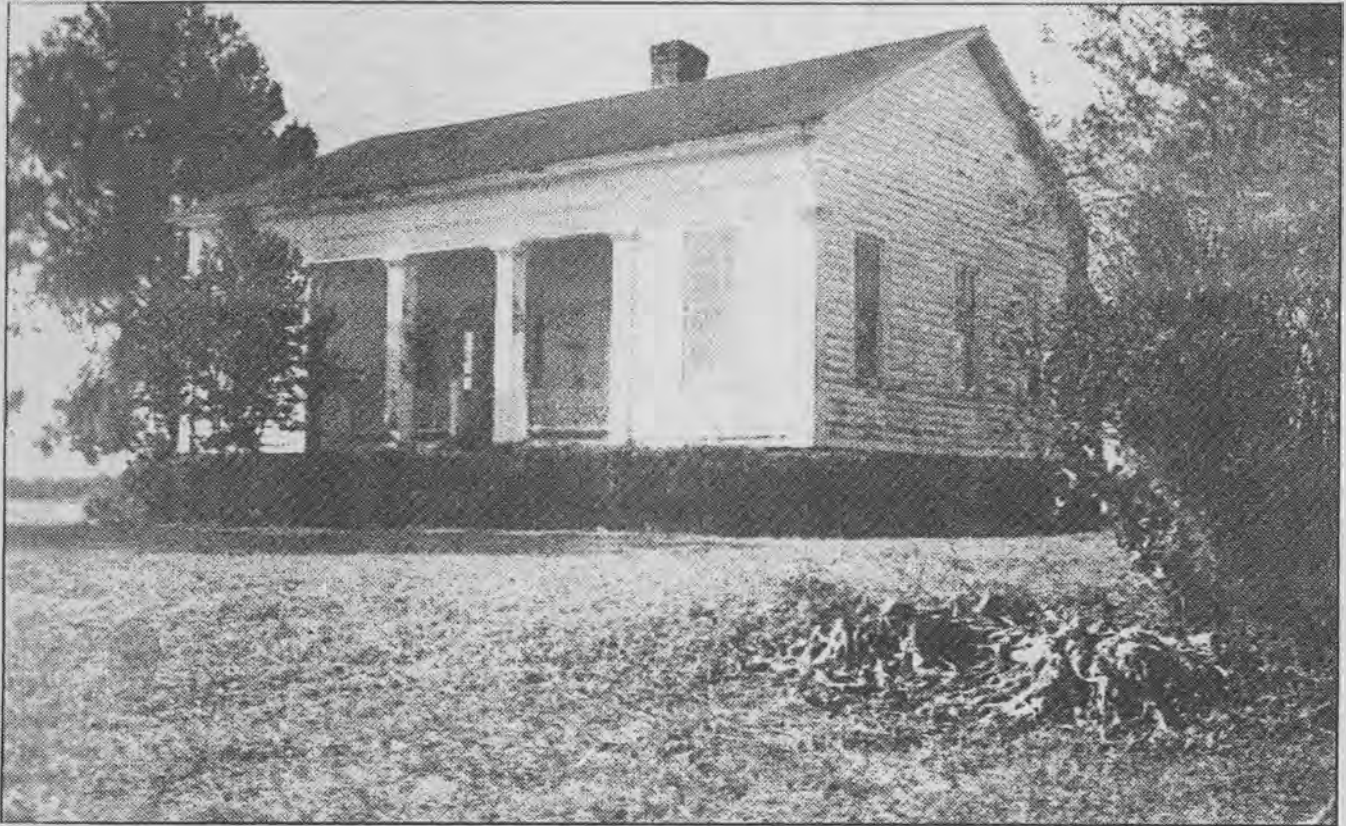
John Duncan.....1911 Duncan Road

The Duncan family acquired land in Brooks County, including this house in 1868. It is thought that the house was probably designed by architect John Wind as it shares many features with other known Wind designed homes in this area. It is located on Duncan Road (off of Highway 76) and is still owned by the Duncan family.



John P. Duncan House

This house, located approximately 4 miles NW of Quitman , was probably built in the late 1830's . It was acquired by Charles Wesley Duncan in 1868 and is still owned by the Duncan family . This "cottage colonial" has many features that suggest it was designed by architect John Wind.



The Duncan House as it stands today.

Methodist ministry in the mid-to-late 1830s, the first heart pine beams were being hewn for the old "cottage colonial" home. Although no known documentation exists confirming this, it seems likely the structure was designed by John Wind making it one of his earliest efforts in Brooks County. Many common features exist between the Duncan house and the no longer standing Endora Plantation Home, the John McMullen home, the Baum house and several in Thomasville all of which were designed by Wind. Of these features most prominent are the 5/8" cypress siding, the "circle-in-square" molding around the interior doorways, reverse stair stepped fire-place brick which facilitated a more effective draw and columns placed on brick pillars set outside and independent of the front porch. The beauti-

fully carved porch balustrade can be seen repeated on more than a few John Wind homes of Thomasville, and is similar to although simpler than the exquisite example adorning the upper balcony across the front of the John McMullen Home.

According to Brooks County Court House records, the Charles Wesley Duncans acquired more property from John G. McCall in 1882. At that time the main road north passed directly in front of the house, forded coon creek, wound through Fodie (a mile to the north) in route to Moultrie. To this day an old line of live oak mark this much overgrown and long since forgotten lane.

The property and house passed to John P. Duncan, Sr. (son of Charles Wesley and the grandson of Reverend John Patterson Duncan) upon the death of his



William and Emma Walker Hall family in front of their home in Brooks County, Georgia, in 1912. Left to right: Robert Richard Hall, Lacy Hall, Cornelius Henry Hall, Francis Hall, Emily Hall, Julia A. Walker, Julia Hall, William Hall, Emma Walker Hall, Lenia Hall Moore, Geneve Moore (baby), William Hall, Jr., Rufus Hall, Virginia Hall, and Willie Emma Hall.

94021

20

William Hall Family (1912)
Brooks County, Georgia
Madison County, Florida

(From left to right)

Robert Hall, Lacy Hall, Cornelius Henry Hall, Francis Hall (Cody),
Emily Hall (Thomas), Julia Walker, Julia Hall (Thomas), William
Hall, Emma Walker Hall, Lenia Hall Moore, Geneva Moore (Baby),
William Hall, Jr., Rufus Hall, Virginia Hall, Willie - Emma Hall,
Walter Rountree (sitting in surrey) (Rounder - dog)

^{NOTE} OLD ROCKY FORD ROAD BETWEEN
NANKENS & EMPRESS, GA., EAST DENSON CEMETERY



**Hutchinson – Shaffer – Bland – Penar.....1914
Empress Road a few hundred yards south of Quitman city limits.**

Hutchinson, an engineer, had an idea to install a central heating system and designed the house to stand 6 feet off the ground to accommodate the furnace --which was never installed. A unique feature of the house is the second floor ballroom, paneled with beaded boards – today; this room is used as a family room.



**2573 Empress Road.....1830 and renovation in 1988
Simms - Lucas - Lewis - McGriff**

Allen Simms first settled here. From 1888 to 1938 the property belonged to J. C. Lucas who made improvements to the house. In 1946 Walker Lewis Jr., a great grandson of A. J. Simms bought the property, which was sold to W. A. McGriff in 1986. The McGriffs made additions to the house, keeping in mind the integrity of the architecture. It is located in southern Brooks County, near the community of Empress.



BRK-20

Brooks County, 1977..... This is the log home of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Croft that was built around 1900.



2573 Empress Road.....moved to this location in 1988

This house, originally located in Empress, was built by J. T. Jones. In 1988, the house was moved to the McGriff property and renovated for a guest house. Raising the ceilings to their original height, stripping old paint from beaded board siding, and using old wood wherever needed – all enabled them to preserve the character of the house.

Brooks County

Board of Tax Assessors

Building Photo 1



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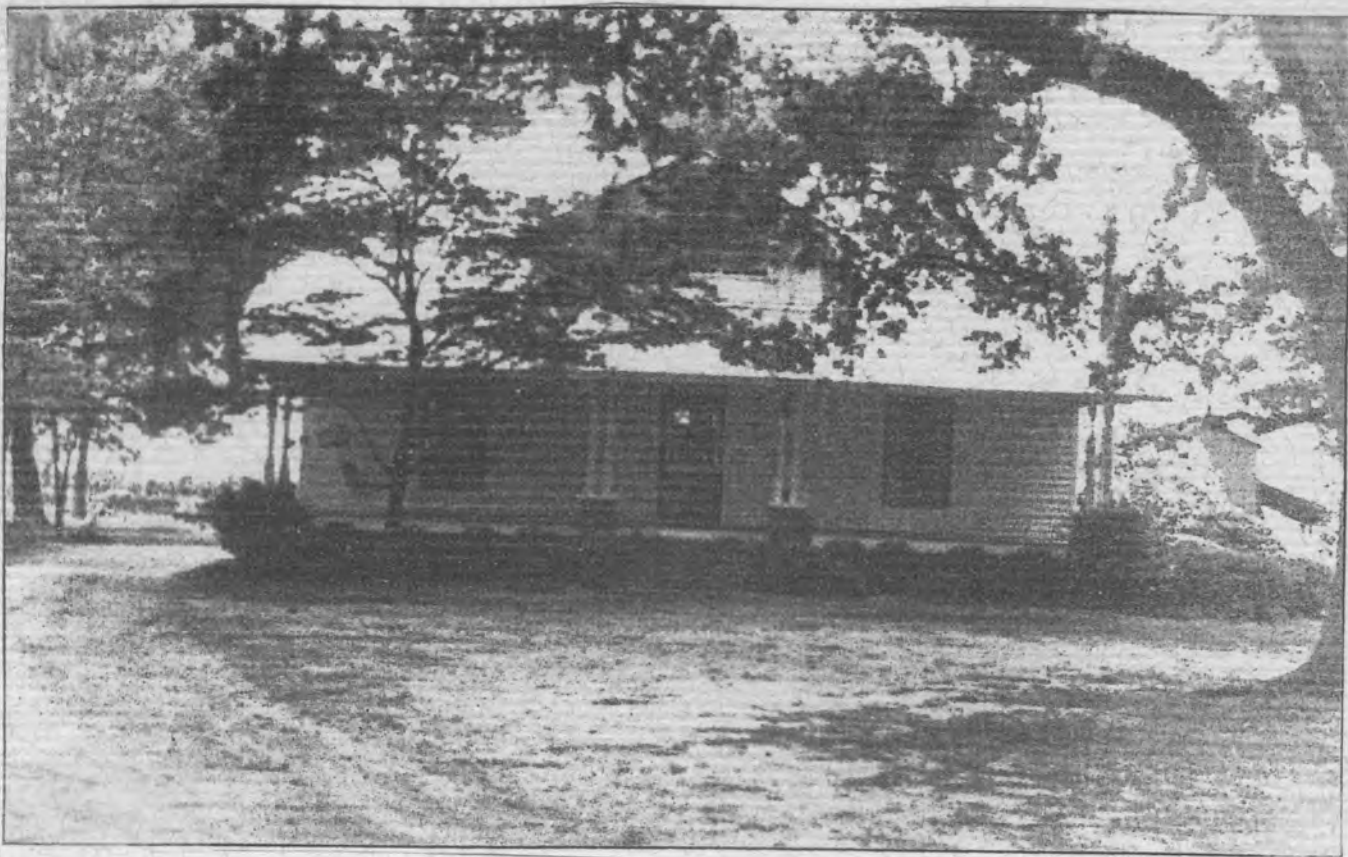


Next Photo

8749 Empress Road.....1880
Avera - Garrett - Latson - Wilson - Giddens

This house is one of several built by the Avera family. Several owners added their touch to the house but Mr. B. F. Garrett is responsible for the beautiful landscaping.

In 1963, the Wilson family bought the property and did extensive remodeling and redecorating, using salvaged woodwork from old residences. The house is located on Empress Road just beyond the south city limits of Quitman.

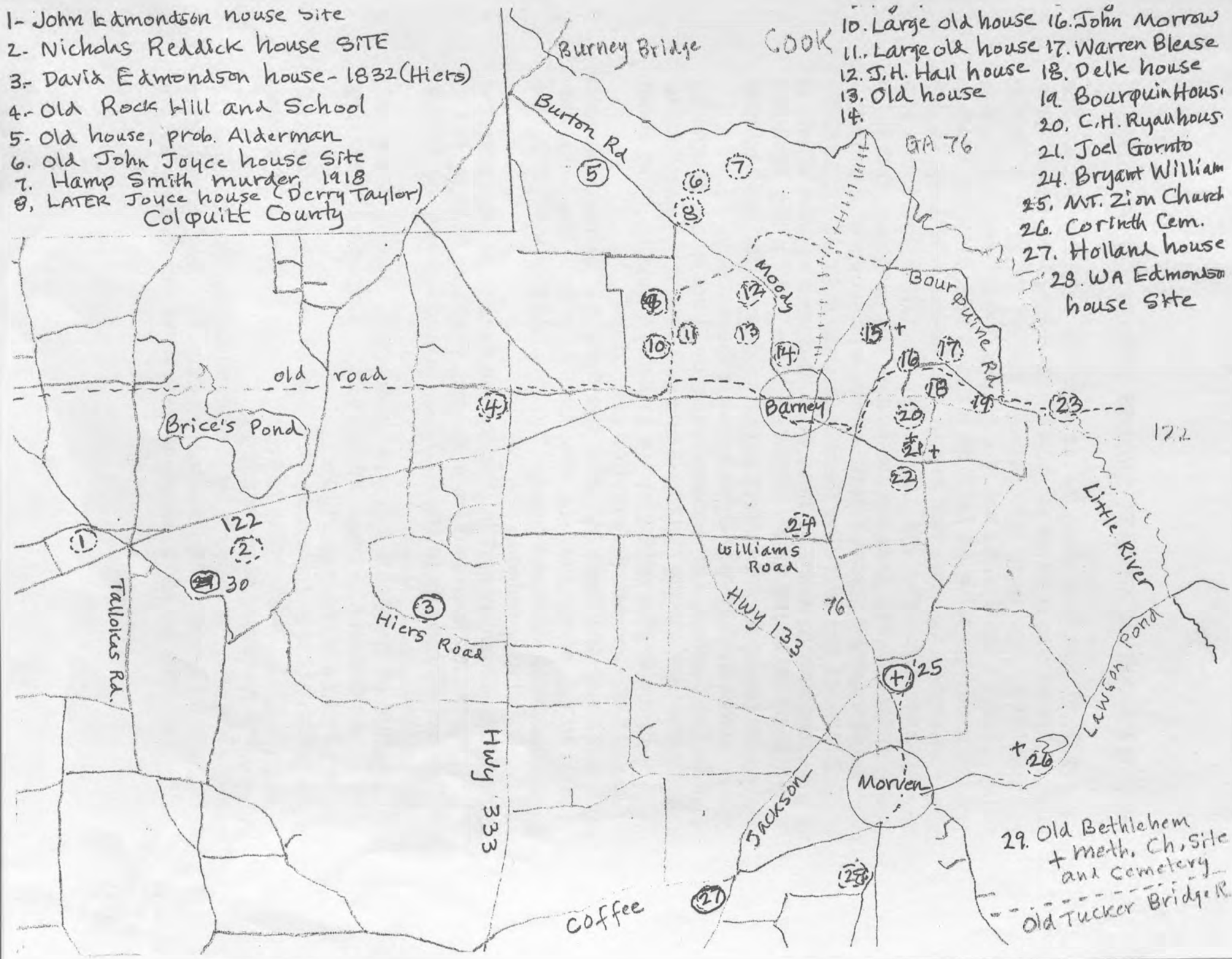


Charles Young Avera House

This house was built in the late 1800's by Charles Avera and is located just outside the city limits on the Empress Rd. It has been remodeled , featuring beautiful salvaged woodwork such as mantelpieces , stairway, and old locally made brick.

- 1- John Edmondson house site
 - 2- Nicholas Reddick house SITE
 - 3- David Edmondson house- 1832 (Hiers)
 - 4- Old Rock Hill and School
 - 5- Old house, prob. Alderman
 - 6- Old John Joyce house site
 - 7- Hamp Smith murder 1918
 - 8- LATER Joyce house (Derry Taylor)
- Colquitt County

10. Large old house
11. Large old house
12. J.H. Hall house
13. Old house
- 14.
16. John Morrow
17. Warren Blease
18. Delk house
19. Bourquin house
20. C.H. Ryan house
21. Joel Gornto
24. Bryant William
25. Mt. Zion Church
26. Corinth Cem.
27. Holland house
28. WA Edmondson house site



KEY TO MAP OF NORTHEAST BROOKS COUNTY WITH NOTES

- 1. John T. Edmondson house site, old Tallokas village. The house was built about 1829-30 and was torn down about 1980. The farm was actually owned by some of Schley Perry's family. He saved a mantel piece beam which was used in a cabin he built on his land near Tallokas Road in Colquitt County, not aware the house was built by his ancestor. The old Lakeland-Thomasville Road ran just north of the Edmondson house, still unpaved today. A store stood across Tallokas Road on the opposite corner.**
- 2. Site of the Nicholas Reddick house, built about 1853-54 and said by some to have been designed by John Wind. It burned about 1880. Mitchell Brice built a big rambling house on the site which was torn down after 1950 by new owners. A smaller brick house is there today.**
- 3. The David A. Edmondson house on Hiers Road, bought by the Hiers family in 1895-6 and still owned by descendants. Probably the oldest house in Brooks County, built about 1832. Two story plantation plain style.**
- 4. Site of Old Rock Hill and the Rock Hill School. Several stores stood here in the 1900's, where the Lakeland-Thomasville Road crossed the Moultrie Highway (333) . No building remains.**
- 5. Old house owned by the Burton family, at one time the home of Owen and Irene Burton. Probably built by one of the Aldermans in the 1800's. In good shape, on Burton Road.**
- 6. Site of the John J. Joyce homestead. Home of the J.D. Edmondsons from 1943-1955. Clapboard over log. Burned in the late 1900's.**
- 7. Site of the Hampton Smith house where he was murdered in 1918. Land probably owned by the Burtons at the time but no record of his owning it.**
- 8. Site of a house built by the Joyce family, occupied by the Derry Taylor family for many years. Mrs. Smith was cared for here in 1918 when she survived being shot by her**

husband's killers. Removed in the late 1900's.
Intersection of Burton Road and Moody Road.

9. Site of the Ryall-Jones house on Burton Road which was bought by W. J. Edmondson, Sr., in 1934. Walker Lane was once the public road which crossed out of the William Folsom plantation and bore southwest across present Moody Road to Burton Road and connected with the Lakeland-Thomasville Road. The latter ran through the southern edge of Barney, bore north past present Highway 122 and cut west to old Rock Hill north of the house Bud Burton built on 122. The old Ryall-Jones house was torn down in the late 1900's.
10. A large old wood house was in a pecan grove south of the Ryall-Jones-Edmondson house in the 1940-1960 period, on the west side of Burton Road about where one of Lewis and Irene Burtons' sons built a brick house. Probably on the local public road which joined Lakeland-Thomasville Road about where 122 and Burton Road intersect today. Who built this house and lived here?
11. Another large house stood in the 1940-1960 period on the east side of Burton Road. No information on its builder, occupants or demise. Removed in the late 1900's.
12. House on Moody Road where the J.H. Hall family lived, possibly built in the late 1800's. A cane mill from the Morven Foundry, made about 1900, was used here. House removed in the late 1900's.
13. A large old house stood in a pecan grove west of the Moody Road, home of the Hickman family in the 1950's and near where Andrew Ellis lived. No information on its builder. Removed in the late 1900's
14. Large rambling house stood here in a curve of Moody Road, on high ground, in the 1940-1960 period, home of John Henry Williams. Possibly built by Ansel Lawrence.
15. Ryall house on Ryall Road, east of Hwy 76. Standing in 2016, remodeled. Small Ryall cemetery across the road under trees. One of William Folsom's daughters married a Ryall.

- 16. John Morrow house was here about 1908. James Blease built a house here in the 1950's, possibly removing the old house.**
- 17. Site of Warren Blease house. This family moved here from the East Side about 1900 and probably did not build the house. Did it burn about 1950? He served in the legislature.**
- 18. Site of Delk house, a large old place where Mrs. Sally Delk lived with her son Hoke until she died. Faced Blease Circle but far back from the road. The contents of the house were sold probably in the 1970's, including a set of wool cards and other ancient items. The Dewitt family built a modern house near the site.**
- 19. Site of Dr. Stephen W. Bourquin's house, built about 1870, on the old Lakeland-Thomasville Road, now Blease Circle. Moved about 1980 for use as a hunting lodge and burned at the new site. He planted a grove of live oaks two of which remain. Also, many Mayhaw trees near his medical office building. A modern house, part of a housing tract, sits where the old house stood.**
- 20. C.H. Ryall built a house south of present Highway 122 in the 1800's, across from current Blease Circle . A small cemetery was behind it. The Garrison family lived here in the 1930's and the twin boys took bricks to the school in Barney to help build the gym, or shell. It was discovered they were filching them from the cemetery. Jack Becton lived here a few years later. The house was removed in the late 1900's.**
- 21. Joel Gornto, early settler, built a house occupied today on Gornto Cemetery Road. It was home to the Manor Folsom family for many years and is in good shape in 2016. Though a small cemetery survives at Walton Branch just south of the house, it was the cemetery of old Shiloh Baptist Church in the late 1800's, might have started as a Gornto Cemetery. Oak Grove School stood here before Barney was started and a large sawmill built by McEachern, with a little post office.**

- 22. Site of Joseph J. Rogers' early home on Yates Road at the intersection with Gornto Cemetery Road. A good photograph of the family in front of the old house has been preserved. Q.T. Rogers and his wife Clara Hendry built a modern brick house here in their late years.**
- 23. Site of the torture and lynching of a woman implicated in the Hamp Smith murder at the hands of a huge mob. The second old Folsom Bridge crossed Little River at Cox's Bluff, then the public road, on the edge of Dr. Bourquin's place, formerly Folsom land. A marker is about a half mile or more southeast on the Lowndes County side of the current Highway 122 bridge.**
- 24. Bryant Williams of Coffee County moved here after the War of the States and built a rambling house at the intersection of Williams Road, Ryall Road and current Highway 76, cut through in 1948. The Price family are descendants as are many of the Williams name in Brooks County. The old house was torn down a few years ago. Llewellen Dixon owned a house standing today where his descendants the Moodys lived for years, on the west side of Highway 76 and about a half mile south of Williams Road.**
- 25. Old Mt. Zion Methodist Church and Campground Cemetery. The original Coffee Road ran through what is now the cemetery, east of the church building, into Morven on current Campground Road, and west past the new school, now called Coffee Road. Beyond Highway 333 at Pebble Hill, the original Coffee Road turned south to Okapilco Church and then continued southwest. In the 1870's the road was redirected to follow its current track across several bridges north of Okapilco Church.**
- 26. Corinth Cemetery at Lawson Pond. Old Corinth Baptist Church was active here until the 1920's. Howard Lawson maintains the cemetery. The records were given to Morven Baptist Church and were donated recently to a Baptist archive.**
- 27. Robert Holland bought land and a house where Coffee Road crosses Jackson Road in the late 1800's. The old**

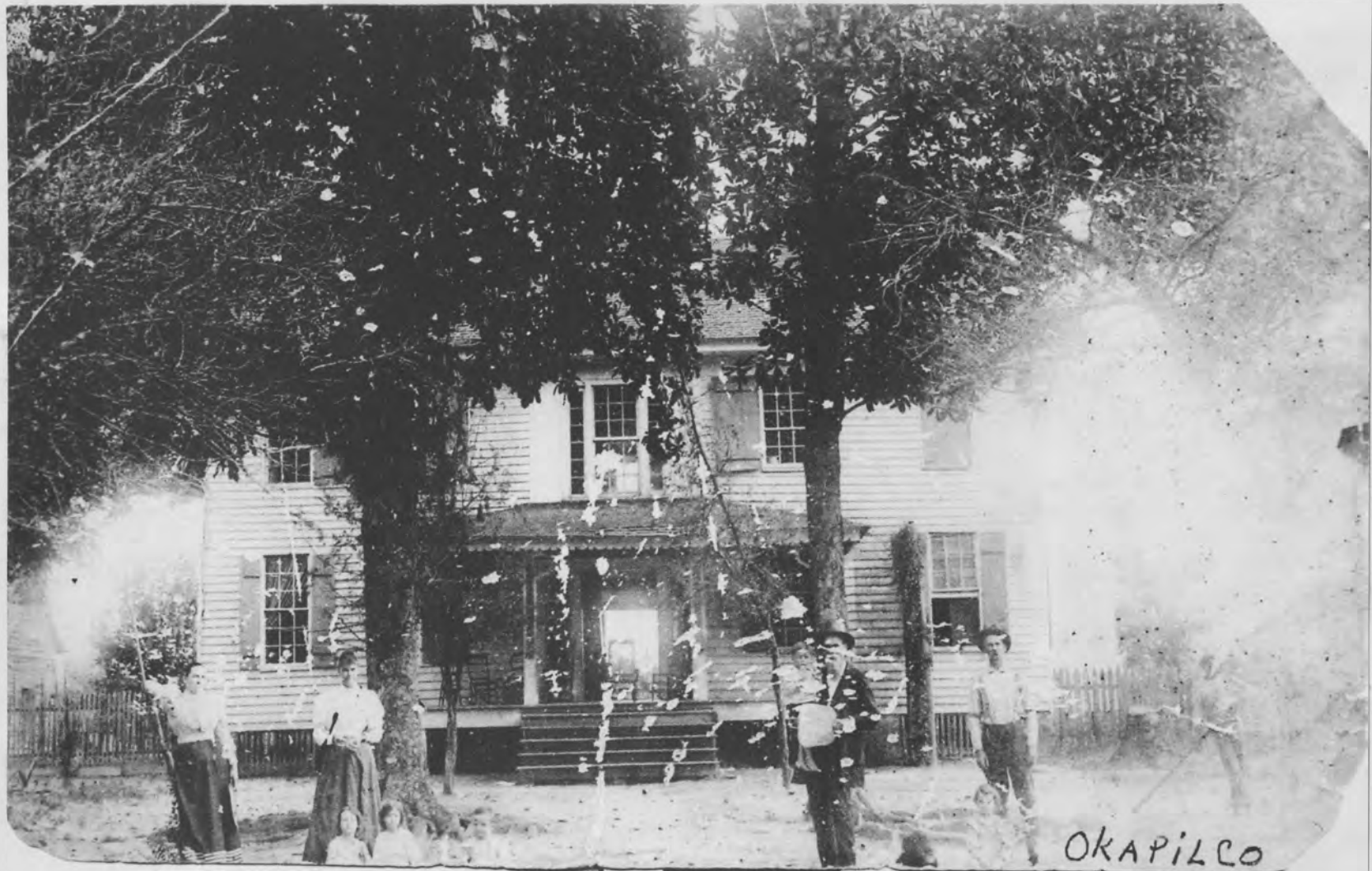
- house stands today and a photo of it and his family is owned by Sheila Rogers Clanton, a descendant. One source says it is another John Wind design. Who built it must be determined, not Robert Holland.
28. Site of the William A. Edmondson house, a large two story place for his large family built about 1891. On Jones Creek Road, just west of the Homer Scruggs home and Hwy 76. The small house near the site was built in part from materials taken from it by Dr. Norman Edmondson. A photograph of the house and family is in the Museum and at the Georgia Historical Society in Savannah.
 29. Old Tucker Bridge Road ran east from the Morven-Valdosta Road (133) in the 1800's. It was closed off long ago. The Alexander Campbell plantation wrapped around the southern edge of Morven, much of which was inherited by the Rev. John M. Hendry and then by his daughter Sophronia Hendry Edmondson. An old deed refers to the parsonage field. This was near an old cemetery long lost in the woods, the site of extinct Bethlehem Methodist Church. Howard Lawson helped Stephen Edmondson find it, recalling hunting in the woods as a young man. Edmondson thinks the old church burned and the membership moved to Mt. Zion Methodist about a mile away where the building was remodeled about 1880.
 30. Old Bethel Baptist Church and cemetery can be reached by an unpaved but well maintained road running southeast from 122 near the Sand Hill Store on Tallokas Road. The church now has no active members but an active cemetery association keeps up the building and the cemetery. A family Bible of the David A. Edmondson family is on loan to the Museum. It was used in the 1800's at this church when David's brother, the Rev. John T. Edmondson, was pastor.

Highway 122 was built about 1940-1941 across northern Brooks County from Hahira through Barney to Pavo. It cut through many farms and few older houses stood on this road.

Before 122, the main public road, unpaved, crossed the Little River at Cox's Bluff, on the second Folsom Bridge (the pilings can sometimes be seen when the river is quite low, sawed off when 122 was opened). It ran past the Bourquin and Blease farms and curved into Barney on Ryall Road and Yates Road, past the Rozier house and just west of Stanley Folsom's current house, through what is now fields north of 122 and intersected with a public road now called Burton Road. It continued westward through old Rock Hill where several country stores still operated at the time 122 was built, crossing the Quitman-Moultrie Road. The public road crossed the Okapilco on a bridge now among the very few old wood bridges surviving, passed Brice's Pond and extinct Tallokas Village. John T. Edmondson's old house stood, probably empty, but little else of the early village remained. Turner Brice owned much of the land in the area in 1940. The road, still unpaved, continued west towards Pavo. Tallokas once had stores, churches, a school and a number of homes.

An even earlier road ran north from old Coffee Road near Little River, through the large William Folsom plantation. It curved along the river past Folsom's house (west of the railroad which was built in 1897). Bourquine Road is part of this old road, crossing Highway 76 just south of the river bridge on the way to Adel. It has been recently found that two cemeteries are located on the Moody-Luck farm, part of Folsom's place, which must be explored. The road crossed current Moody Road going southwest along what is now called Walker Lane, past the Ryall-Jones house and south on the course of Burton Road by several old farm houses to the Lakeland-Thomasville Road, continuing south as Slaughter Creek Road to Williams Road. Mary Edmondson lives on Walker Lane today in the farmhouse once the home of her father in law, William J. Edmondson, Jr., the WWII POW of the Japanese.

Stephen W. Edmondson
Stephen W. Edmondson, May, 2016

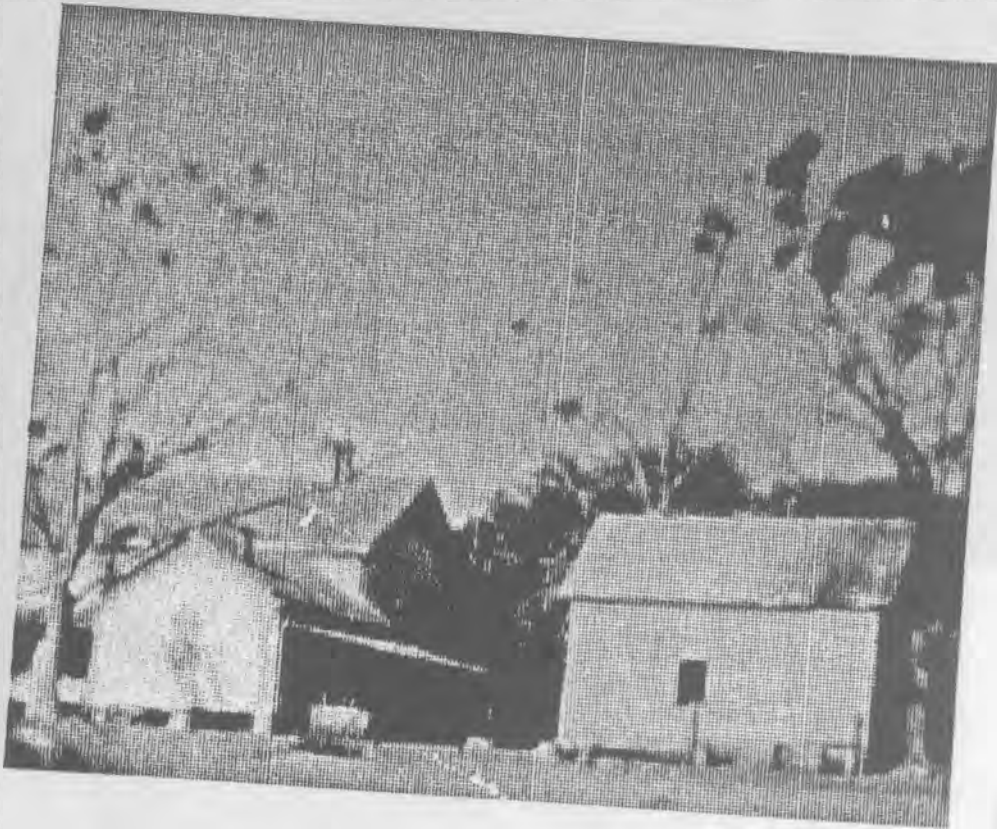


OKAPILCO PLANTATION

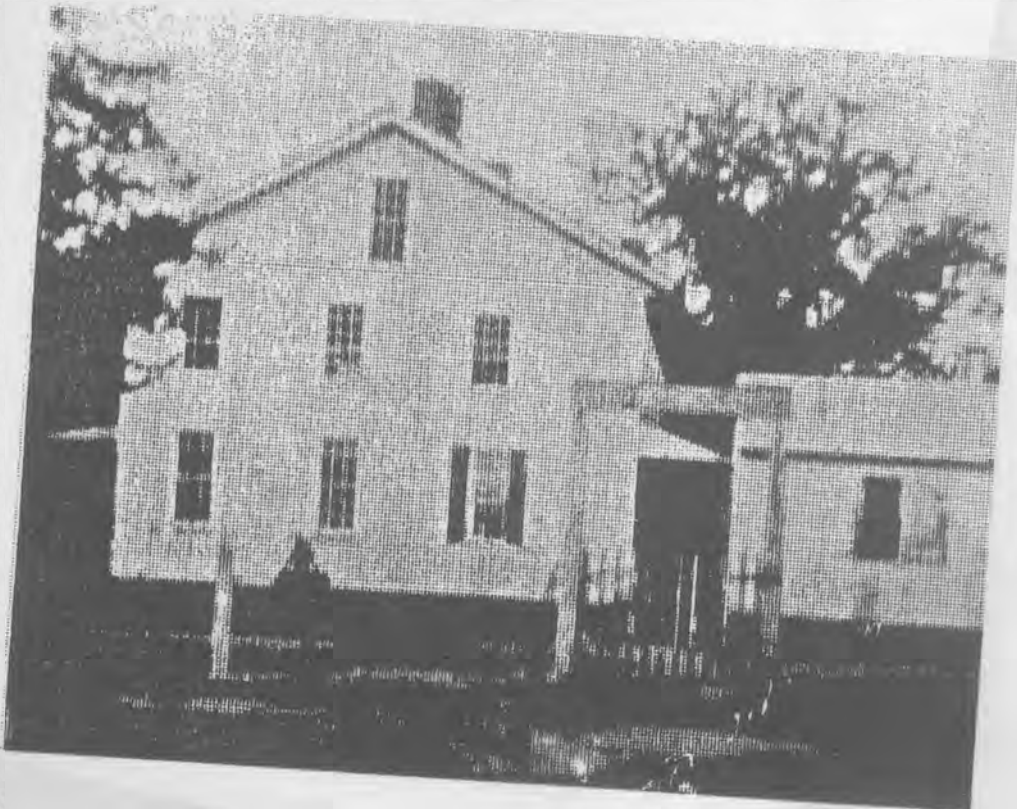
Tillie McCall (Mrs. S. S.) Gaulden, Martha Bowie (Mrs. G. C.) Hopper, Eddie and Nettie Hopper, Albert Gaulden, Mr. Wilkes McCall and Willie Gaulden, Mr. G. C. Hopper and Susie Hopper, H. Holdman, the yard boy. You can see the sugar house on east side and office on west side, 1900.

List with County Houses, if not a duplicate

Appendix



Okapilco Plantation





Black Water Plantation.....1548 Greenville Highway

The original section of this house made of hand hewn logs and wooden pegs was constructed by Clayton Rhey Denmark between 1855 and 1867. It has been expanded and remodeled. The C. W. Schmoe family has owned it since 1953.

THE HULETT, HADDOCK, STANLEY, AND BLAIR HOME

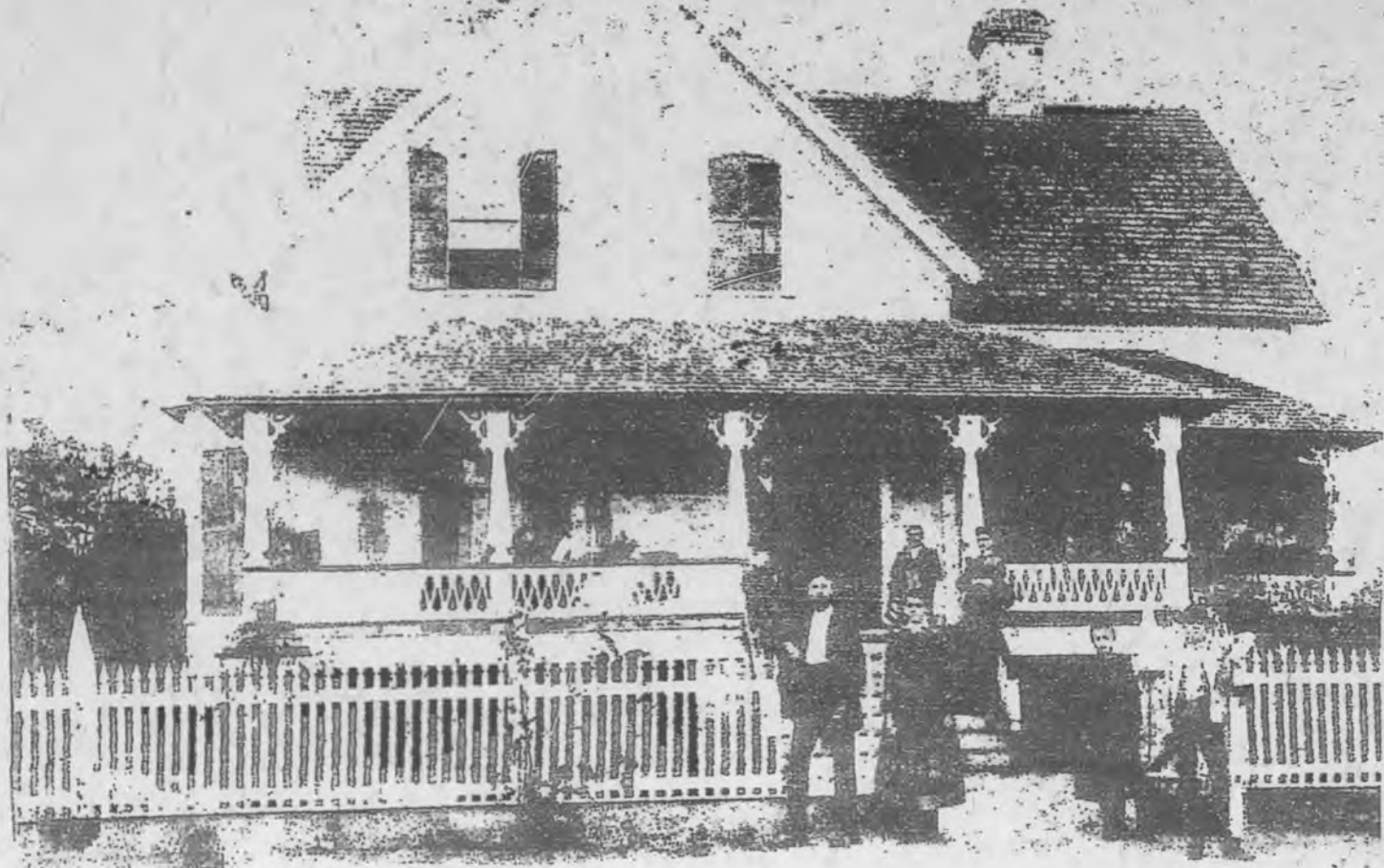
2141 Greenville Hwy

by
Deweece Blair





Young/Wasden/Gay...built in 1900.....Greenville Highway
Just beyond the Quitman City limits.



Washington Poe Burke House

This house, built circa 1870 by W.P. Burke, is located about 4 miles south of Quitman on Hwy 221. Mr. Burke, a Confederate veteran, patented three of his inventions- "The Burke Automatic Steam Washer", "Washboiler", "Crupper Shield".



**5320 Greenville Highway.....1870
Burke - Johnson**

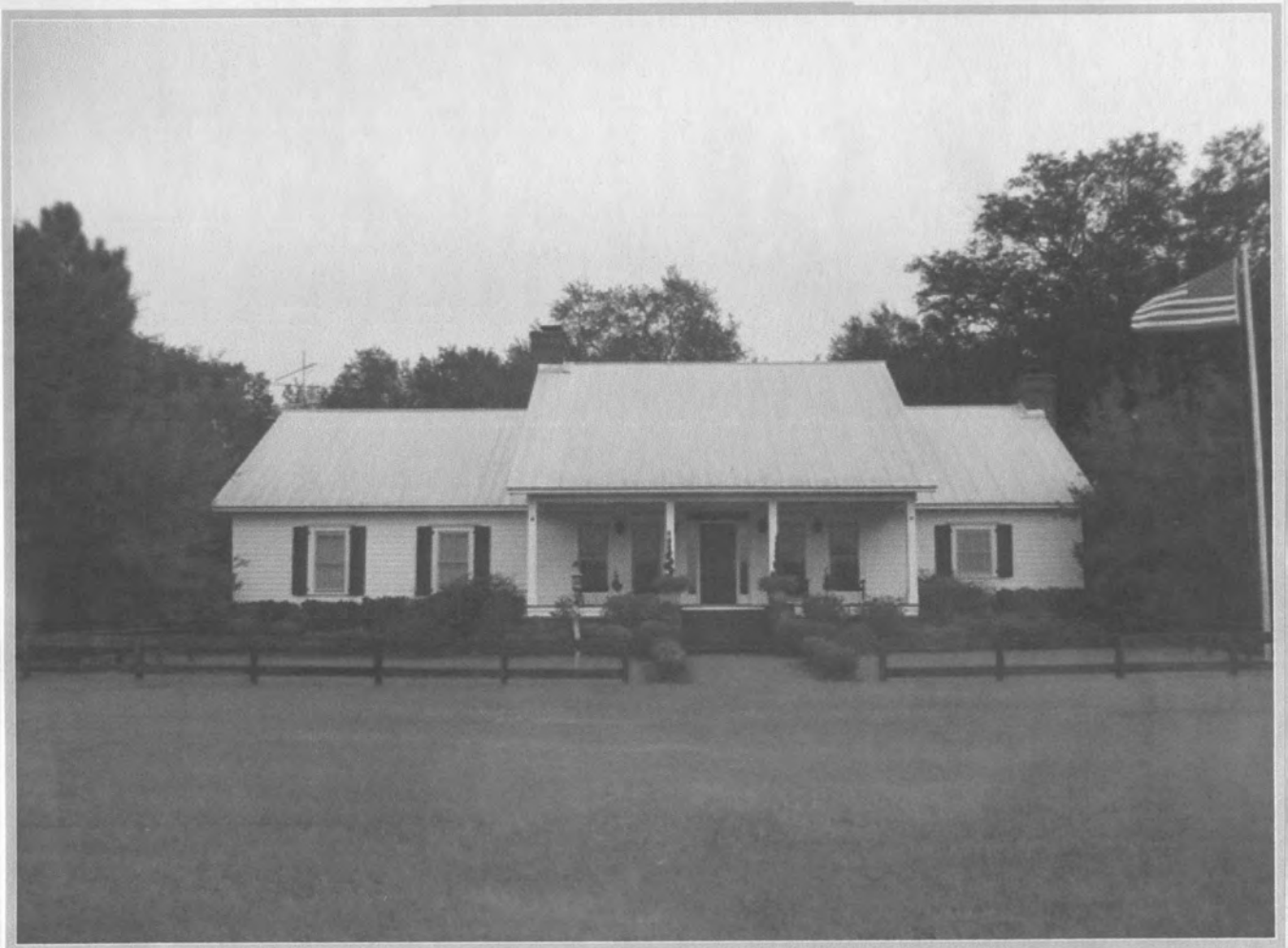
This house was built by Washington Poe Burke who patented "The Burke Automatic Steam Washer", "Washboiler" and "Crupper Shield". The house was originally four rooms over four rooms. Later a second wing was added. The Charles Johnson family has owned this house since 1953. It is located south of Quitman on the Greenville Highway.



Taylor/Hilliard....built in 1920.....5457 Greenville Highway
Presently owned by the Taylors granddaughter Julia Collins
Hilliard.



4291 Grooverville Road.....circa 1840-1850.
The Lee family, early settlers in the Grooverville area built
this house. It has had many owners since. It is one of the
oldest homes in Brooks County

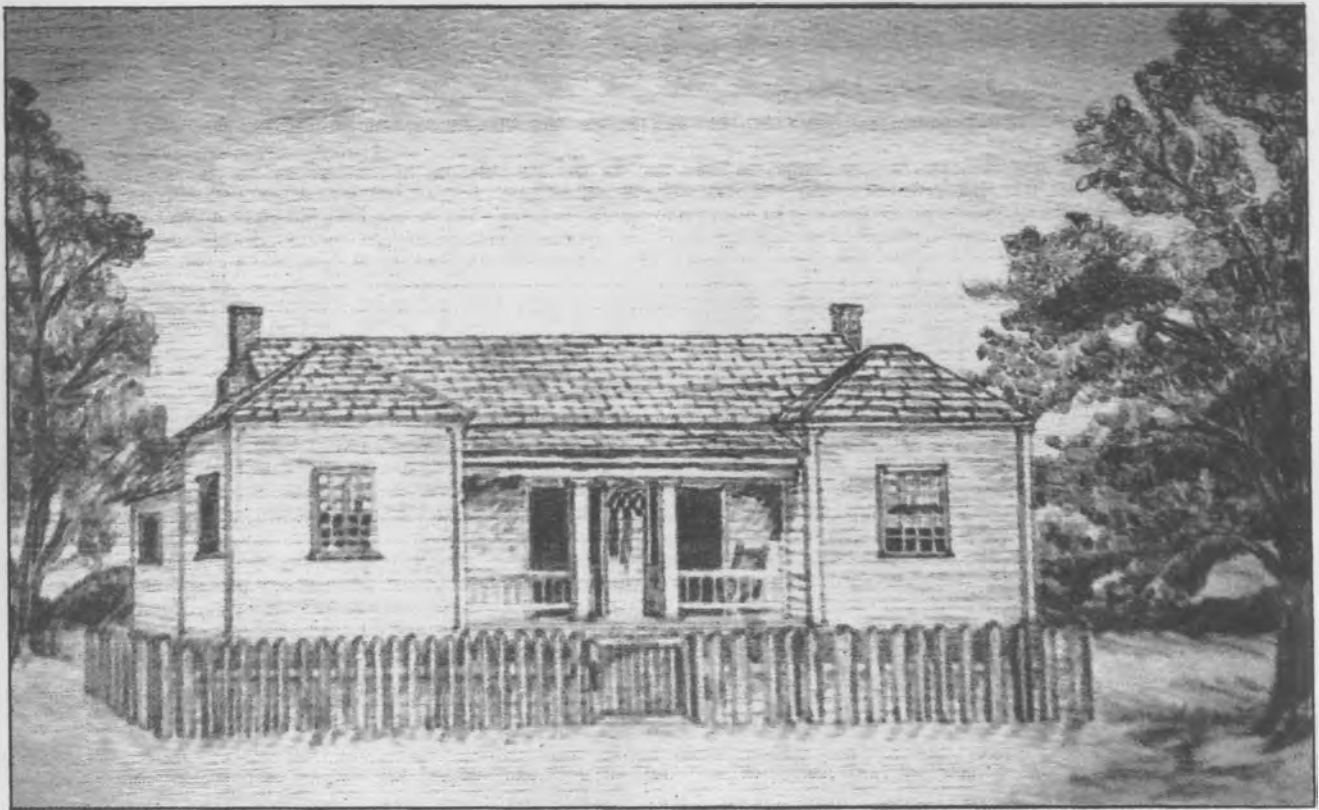


1400 Haddock Road.....circa 1900

This house had its beginnings as a small log house which still forms the center of the present house. Builder is unknown but the property was owned by the Arrington and McMullen families for many years before it was sold to Robert Weaver in the 1930s. The original structure was moved to the present location in 1988 by Tom and Betty Petway who made renovations and additions, including stripping away a brick siding that had been added some time in its past. Today it is a charming country retreat.



by
Sandra Cummings Ramsey



The McMullen-Thrasher home by Mark Claude Trotter.

The McMullen Thrasher home is located nine miles from Quitman, Ga. in the Hickory Head community. It is a lovely old home built by the McMullen family in the late 1800s. The front of the house has a porch with a room on each side of the porch. The house faces north. When the house was built it had a narrow porch on the back with banisters, it also had a shelf that was used to hold wood. This porch ran north and south. There was also a large porch on the back that ran east and west, it joined the dining room, kitchen and pantry. The dining room had a very large

fire place. Over the dining room was a loft that was used for storage and also served as sleeping quarters for peddlers.

It was in this country home that Jesse Whitfield Thrasher raised his family. He was the son of James Cloud Thrasher and Nancy Ann Travis. He was born January 2, 1855, and died March 23, 1928, at the age of seventy-three. He married Mary Jane McMullen (Jennie) on December 12, 1878. She was born September 30, 1859, and died February 1, 1909, at the age of 49. Mary Jane was the daughter of William R. McMullen and Mattie Hunter. William

was the son of James and Harriet McMullen, early pioneer settlers of Brooks County. James served as a representative to the state legislature and was also a Whig. James and his brother John had an active part in the war against the Indians, 1836-1938. They were both large land owners in Brooks County. On their plantations they grew food crops to help feed the Atlantic and Gulf Railroad, which was later named the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad.

Jesse and Mary Jane were blessed with eleven children, seven sons and four daughters of which ten lived to maturity.

William Cloud Thrasher (Bubba) - Born November 12, 1879 in Brooks County, GA. He never married. He died January 28, 1960, at the age of 80 and is buried at Hickory Head Church Cemetery, Brooks County, 1412 District.

Annie Rebecca Thrasher (Sister) - Born July 17, 1881, Brooks County, GA. Died July 2, 1954, at the age of 73. Buried Brooks County, GA. Never married.

West Rountree Thrasher (Old Man) - Born June 10, 1883, Brooks County, GA. Died January 8, 1953 at the age of 69. Buried in Barwick, GA. Married Sallie Lee Talley, January 12, 1915, Dixie, Ga.

Lloyd Zeno Thrasher - Born March 18, 1885, Brooks County, GA, died September 23, 1938 at the age of 53. Buried in Auburn, Alabama. Married Ruth Bowden, Dothan, Alabama on January 11, 1920.

John Patterson Thrasher - Born September 28, 1887, Brooks County, GA. He died in New Orleans, LA and is buried in Jacksonville, FL. He married Mary Ann Spellman on December 24, 1918.

Mary Whitfield Thrasher (Lady) - Born January 6, 1888, Brooks County, GA.

She died September 12, 1972 and was buried at Groover-Ramsey Cemetery, Brooks County, GA. On October 28, 1916 she married Christopher Columbus Ramsey.

Joel Allen Thrasher - Born November 14, 1891. Died March 8, 1929.

Jesse Wade Thrasher - Born January 20, 1894. Died October 23, 1977. On April 20, 1924 he married Myrtle Yates.

Wallace D. Thrasher - Born March 4, 1896, Brooks County, GA. Died September 28, 1904.

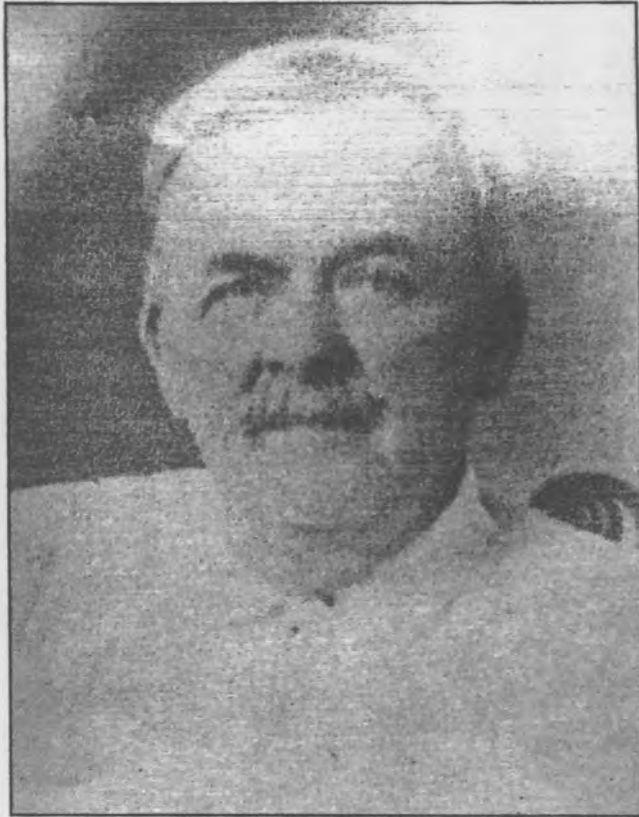
Mattie Lee Thrasher - Born June 19, 1899. On April 22, 1920 she married Thomas Melvin Rhodes.

Jennie Thrasher - Born December 2, 1904. On November 19, 1927 she married Joe P. Peters.

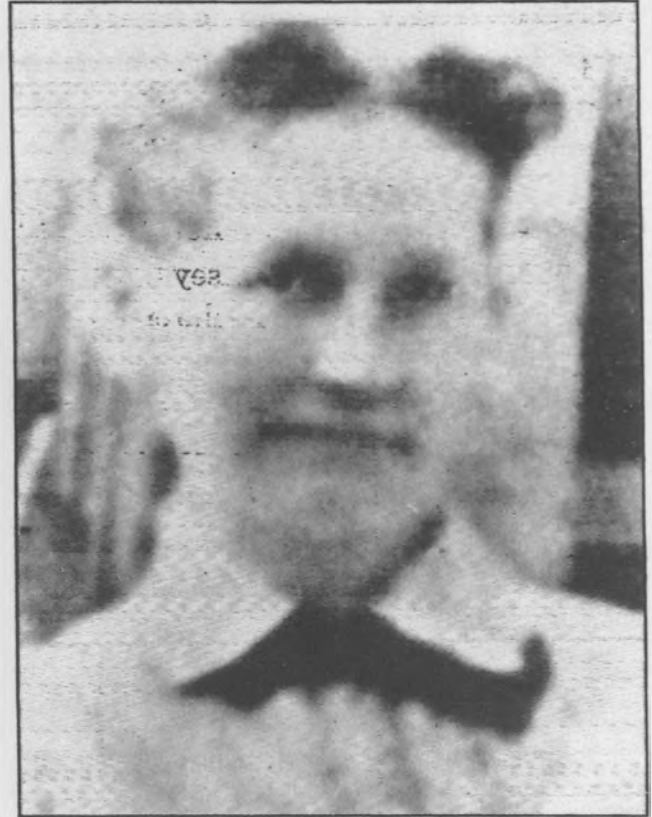
Jesse W. Thrasher served as Sheriff of Brooks County from 1891-1895. He also served as justice of the peace in the 1412th District from 1899-1920. It was a command practice for him to marry couples in his home. On a few occasions he arrested people and locked them in his barn for the night and would take them to town the next morning and turn them over to the Sheriff.

Jesse was also a self taught veterinarian. He was called upon to treat horses and other sick animals in his community. He was always willing to help out anybody that needed him.

When Mary Jane Thrasher passed away on February 1, 1909, young Jennie was four years old and Mattie was nine. Annie being the oldest daughter took over all the responsibilities of the house and younger children. Jennie and Mattie called Annie "Sister." Annie did her best to fill her mother's shoes. Annie never married.



Jesse Whitfield Thrasher
1855-1928



Mary Jane McMullen Thrasher
1859-1909

All the Thrasher children except Jennie attended Piscola school. When it came time for Jennie to start school she began at Piscola then went to Hickory Head school and later to Quitman school. When Jennie was old enough to go by herself to school she rode her horse "Charlie." She kept Charlie in a stall behind the school each day until it was time to go home.

Mattie and Jennie were spoiled by their older brothers and sisters. Jennie enjoyed fishing and hunting with her brothers, who thought she was very special. Will (Bubba) bought a piece of beautiful china silk cloth home one day for Lady to make Jennie a Sunday dress. Lady did most of the sewing for the family. The first Sunday Jennie wore her new dress to church she refused to sit down for fear she

would wrinkle her pretty dress. Half way through the sermon Jennie decided she was tired and needed to sit down, so as not to wrinkle her dress she pulled it up and sat down.

The McMullen-Thrasher home was always a home filled with love for family and friends. Each Sunday after church the Thrasher family always had friends for lunch. Annie would have a delicious meal prepared for all to enjoy. Jesse Thrasher enjoyed friends visiting in his home.

As long as he lived, Jesse Thrashers children were very attentive to him. They would spend their vacation time with him in the home where they had grown up.

In the early 1950s Will (Bubba) Thrasher sold his own farm which was a mile from the McMullen-Thrasher home

and moved back to carry on after his father. Nancy Simmons who started working for the Thrasher family when she was quite young kept house for Mr. Will. He was keenly interested in local politics as was his father before him. Mr. Will also loved to fox hunt and kept plenty of hounds to hunt with.

The McMullen-Thrasher home is owned today by Patricia Ramsey Blane and Chris Ramsey, great-grandchildren of Jesse Whitfield Thrasher.

Bibliography

- Our Thrasher Heritage* by Dorothy Sturgia Pruett, published privately by Mrs. Joe F. Pruett, 4935 Brittany Drive, Macon, GA 31210.
- The History of Brooks County Georgia* by Folks Huxford, 1858-1948. Reprinted 1978. The Reprint Company, Publishers, Spartanburg, South Carolina 29304.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Mrs. Jennie Thrasher Peters for sharing her memories of growing up in the McMullen-Thrasher home.





White.....6469 Hickory Head Road, Dixie
This house was built circa 1900 probably by G. W. Williams. In 1913, the property was purchased by George White and has remained in the White family for three generations. Today, it is the home of Carl and Carolyn White who have up-dated the original four rooms and hallway with additions and remodeling.

Brooks County

Board of Tax Assessors

Building Photo 2



[Previous Photo](#) [Next Photo](#)

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Edmondson – Griffen – Hiers.....1218 Hiers Rd, Barney, Georgia.

According to the Edmondson family, the original section of this house was built by a member of their family in 1832, making it one of the oldest in the county. Over the years, additions have been made. It has been in the Hiers family since 1912. It is located on Hiers Road in the Barney area.



722 Johnson Short Road.....c 1900

George Johnson built this house for his bride. He lived here for the rest of his life, reaching the grand old age of 102.



1210 McKinnon Road.....1881
Powel - Miller

It is believed that this house was built by the Powell family in 1881.

Board of Tax Assessors

Photograph 1 for Parcel: 102 0015



Next Photo

Radford .. 1861.....288 Milton Road

This handsome old house defies its age but the date the construction was finished is clearly etched on an original door, still used in the house.....
..E Sept 15, 1861. The family story is that the carpenter left to join the Confederate Army, Henry Radford settled here, passing the property to the next generation until today, A. J. Radford, the fifth generation lives in the house with his family. They have done extensive renovation on the house while retaining it's character. It is located near the Georgia Florida line.

Radford 1860
288 Milton Rd

Board of Tax Assessors

Photograph 2 for Parcel: 102 0015



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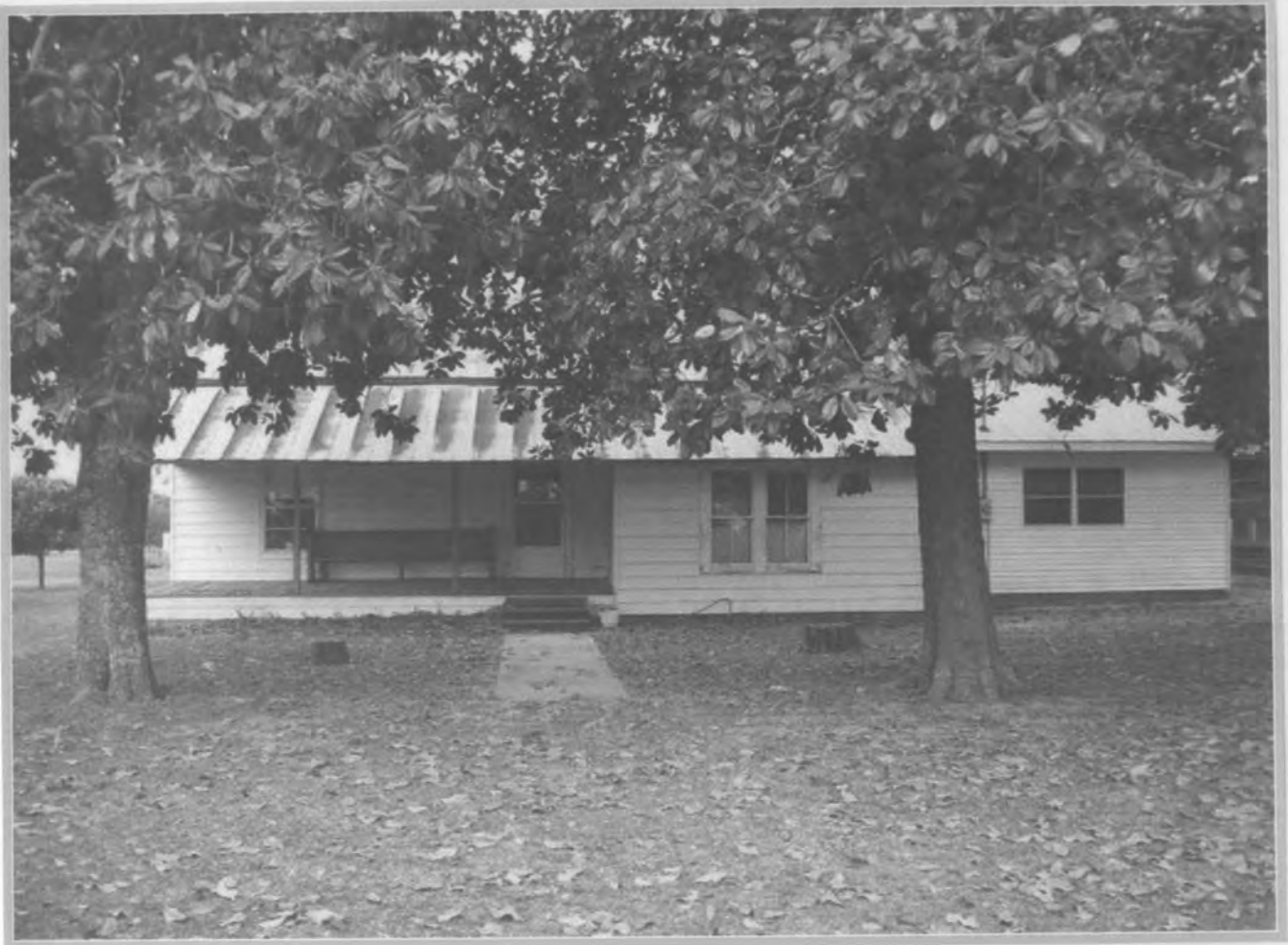
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McMullen, Thrasher, Blane.....1438 Minnow Farm Road..c 1800's

This house features a typical architectural style used in the area.



1183 Mitchell Circle.....c 1900

This home has been in the George Mitchell family for three generations.