

RODGERS-BUCHANAN FARM, HOUSE
State Highway 3/U.S. Highway 19, Lower Five Points Road and
Cornwell Road
Smithville
Sumter County
Georgia

HABS GA-40-A
GA-40-A

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GA-40-A

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
100 Alabama St. NW
Atlanta, GA 30303

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

RODGERS-BUCHANAN FARM, HOUSE

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Location: State Highway 3/U.S. Highway 19
Lower Five Points Road and Cornwell Road, Smithville, Sumter County,
Georgia

U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute Smithville East, Georgia, quadrangle,
Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates:
16.759952.3538725

Significance: This district consists of a historic farmhouse with its associated outbuildings and pecan groves. The structures are located on approximately 465 acres of farmland historically associated with the farmhouse and the Rodgers and Buchanan families. The Folk Victorian farmhouse and outbuildings are located amongst an extensive grove of continuously cultivated pecan trees, many of which date to the mid-1920s. This farm is significant architecturally as a good example of a Folk Victorian farmhouse. In addition to the farmhouse and the collection of outbuildings provide a good example of farm complexes prevalent in Southwest Georgia during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In addition, the pecan groves are important examples of early efforts of crop diversification in the state.

Description: The wooden framed, hipped roof main house is a Georgian Cottage with Folk Victorian and Greek Revival elements. The house presents a three bay façade, composed of a central, double door entry, with a single six over six double hung window on either side. The four panel entry doors are framed by an eight light transom and narrow three pane side lights. This arrangement is topped by a low pediment crown with Greek Revival "ears". This decorative crown is repeated on the front windows. The house is raised on brick piers with brick lattice work infill. There are four exterior chimneys constructed of brick with corbelled brackets at the tops. The Folk Victorian elements have been applied to the porch. The front porch contains four flat jig sawn supports. These feature inset diamond shaped motifs, with a five point star cut out for the "capitals". Other porch details include jig sawn spandrel brackets as well as a balustrade.

History: The 1982 Sumter County Architectural History Survey mentions 1856 as the date of construction for the main house. It was therefore built around the same time that the adjacent Southwestern railroad line was extended southward from Americus. This property has been retained in

the same family since James M. Rodgers first purchased the seminal 160 acres from Miles M. Wimbish of Montgomery County, Alabama in 1860. This purchase is documented by the original deed, which is still in the family's possession. The land passed to the Buchanan family when J.M. Rodger's daughter, Kate, married George E. Buchanan at the turn of the century. Mr. Buchanan founded a general store in Americus, and used the farm to provide goods such as cane sugar and meat for sale in town. George Buchanan was also responsible for planting the extensive, terraced groves of pecan trees beginning around 1925.

Sources: Information was obtained from the 1982 Sumter County Architectural Survey and an interview with the property owner.

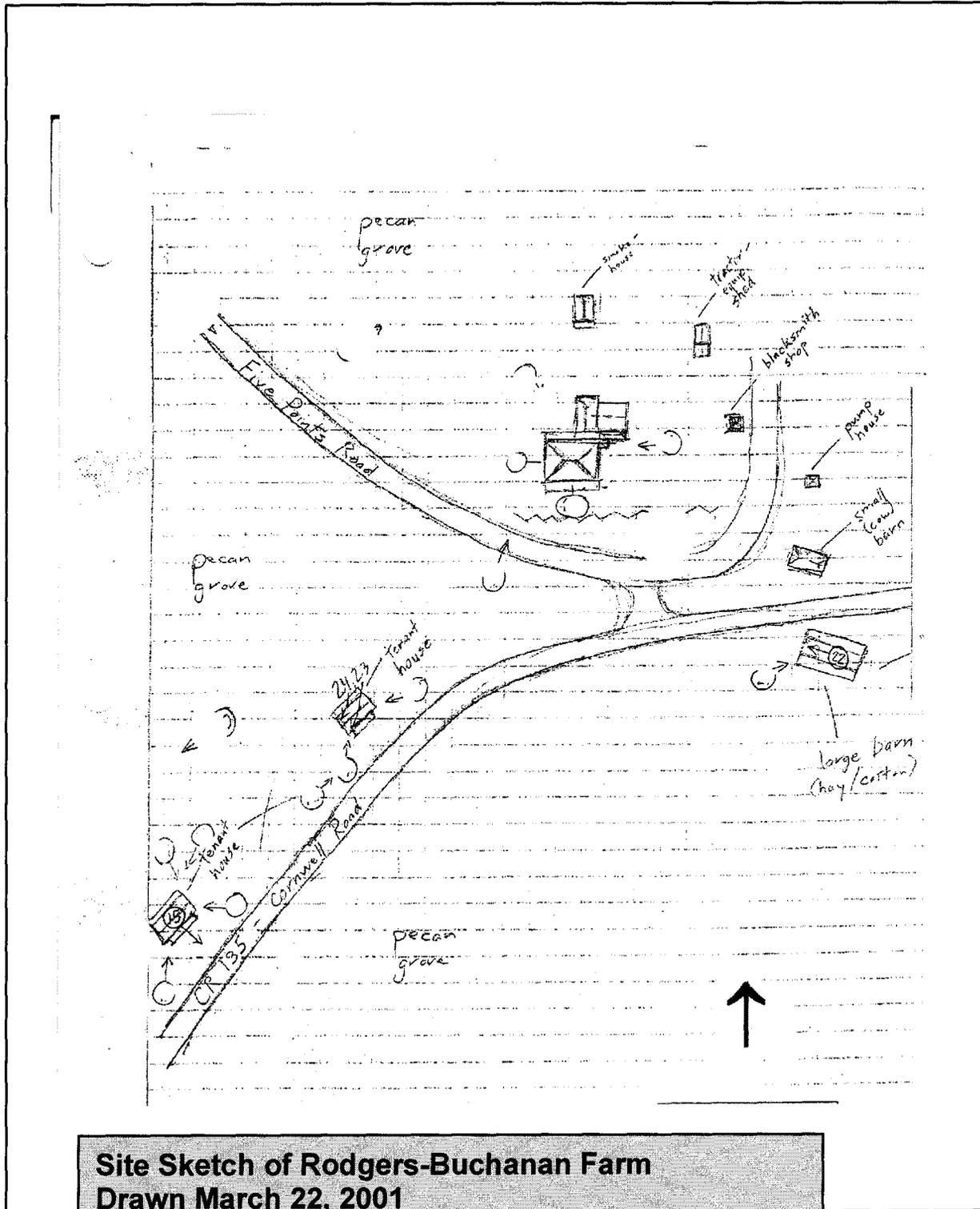
Historian: Sharman Southall
GDOT Architectural Historian
Office of Environment and Location
Georgia Department of Transportation
3993 Aviation Circle
Atlanta, Georgia 30336

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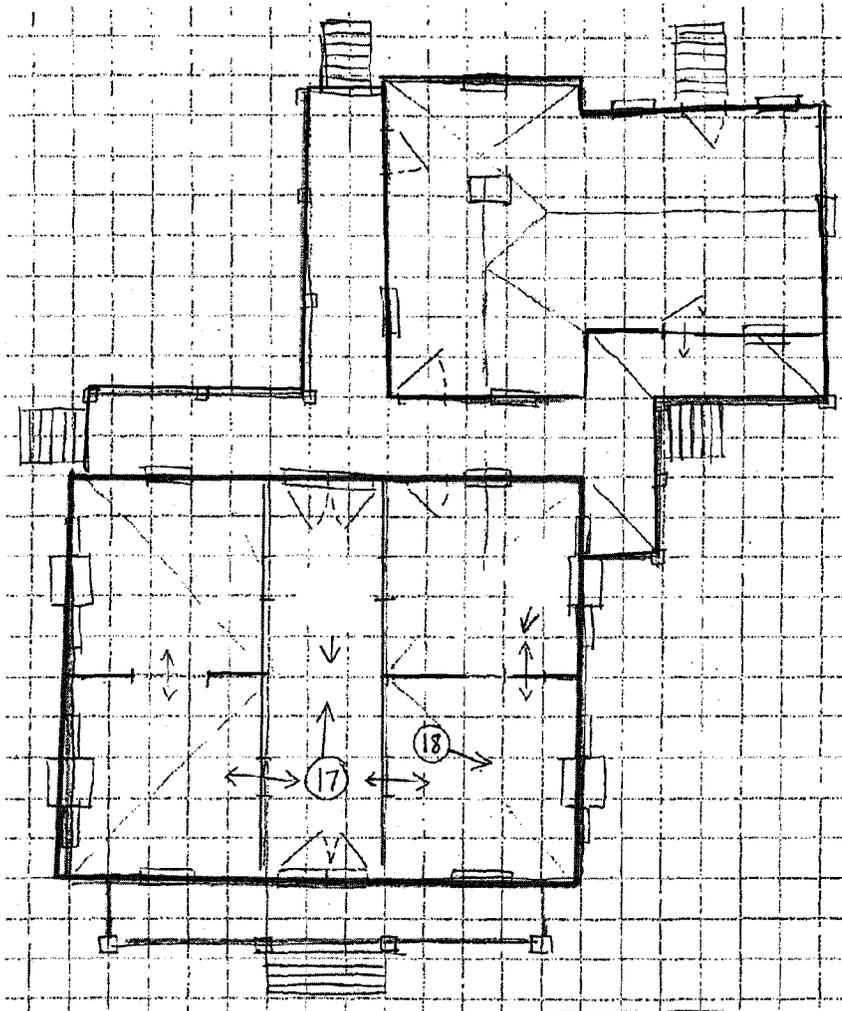
**Aerial Photograph of Rodgers-Buchanan
Farm dated May 6, 1957, Georgia
Department of Transportation,
Atlanta, Georgia**

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Site Sketch of Rodgers-Buchanan Farm
Drawn March 22, 2001
By: David Ray
Note: Some Structures no longer extant in 2006

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Plan Sketch of Rodgers-Buchanan Farm
Drawn March 22, 2001
By: David Ray

