

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**STATE OF GEORGIA**

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**INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE**

**FILE** P.I. #713300 **OFFICE** Environmental Services

**DATE** October 11, 2011

**FROM** Matthew Kear

**TO** Files

**SUBJECT** GDOT Project IMNH0-0285-01(352), DeKalb County;  
P.I. #713300 and HP #110201-001:  
Survey Report.

Attached is the Survey Report for the subject project. This document describes the Department's efforts to identify historic properties located within the proposed project's area of potential effects and the evaluation of all identified properties through the application of the Criteria of Eligibility to determine eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

MRK/

cc: Rodney N. Barry, P.E., FHWA, w/attachment (Attn: Jennifer Giersch)  
David Crass, Deputy SHPO, w/attachment  
Atlanta Regional Commission, w/attachment  
Melissa Forgey, DeKalb History Center, w/attachment

**CONCUR:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_  
David Crass, Deputy SHPO

cc: Olufunmilayo Adesesan, GDOT NEPA  
Jeremy Busby, GDOT Project Manager

## **SURVEY REPORT**

### **GDOT PROJECT IMNH0-0285-01(352), DEKALB COUNTY**

**P.I. #713300**

**HP #110201-001**

The proposed project was field surveyed for historic properties in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and amendments thereto. The survey boundary and methodology were established using the *GDOT/FHWA Cultural Resources Survey Guidelines*. These guidelines were established as a result of past interaction with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and his staff and were agreed upon by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the SHPO.

This project provides for the reconstruction of the I-285/Bouldercrest Road interchange and includes braided ramps between the I-675/I-285 interchange and the I-285/Bouldercrest Road interchange. On Bouldercrest Road, the project extends north from just north of the South River to just west of the Bouldercrest Lane/Bouldercrest Road intersection. On I-285, the project extends from the I-675 southbound exit ramps to just east of Sugar Creek. Existing right-of-way (ROW) is 60-100-ft. on Bouldercrest Road and 300-ft. on I-285. Proposed ROW would be a maximum of 180-ft. on Bouldercrest Road and 300-1550-ft. on I-285.

The area of potential effects (APE), as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(d), is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties if any such properties exist. Based on the nature and the scope of the undertaking, the guidance in the *GDOT/FHWA Cultural Resources Survey Guidelines* and past experience with similar projects, the Department has evaluated and defined the APE for this proposed project. Because of the nature and scope of the undertaking, the area of potential direct effects consists of the project view shed and the proposed right-of-way of the proposed project, within which all construction and ground disturbing activity would be confined (refer to attached graphic). No potential for indirect effects is anticipated by implementation of the proposed project.

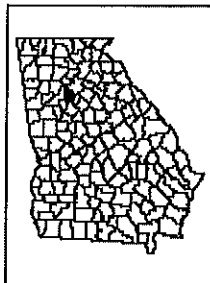
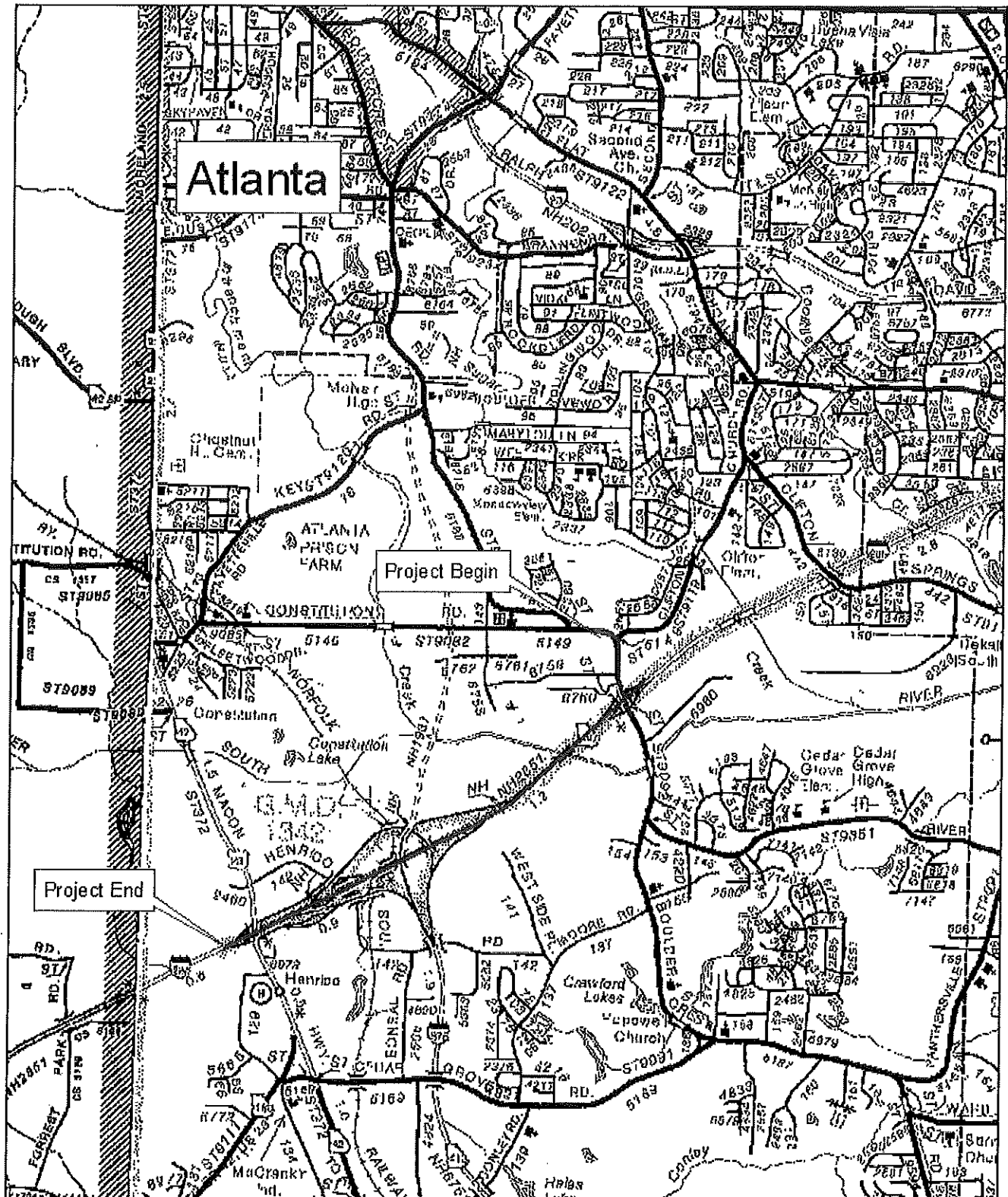
The review of existing information on previously identified historic properties revealed that no National Register listed properties, proposed National Register nominations, National Historic Landmarks, or bridges determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register in the updated Georgia Historic Bridge Survey (GHBS) were identified within the proposed project's APE. In addition, no properties 50 years old or older were identified within the proposed project's APE in any of the DNR DeKalb County surveys.

A total of three additional properties 50 years of age or older not identified in the DNR survey were identified within the proposed project's APE during the field survey (see attached location map). These properties are Property 1 (constructed 1960, ranch-type house), Property 2 (constructed 1960, ranch-type house), and Property 3 (developed ca. 1923-1963, dairy farm).

In addition to the Georgia SHPO, other potential consulting parties were identified based on the nature of the undertaking and the guidance in the *GDOT/FHWA Cultural Resources Survey Guidelines*. The other potential consulting parties invited to participate in the Section 106 process were the Atlanta Regional Commission, DeKalb History Center, and the DeKalb County Commission. The consulting parties were informed of our efforts to identify historic properties by consulting existing information and the results of those efforts and asked to provide information on any unidentified National Register listed or eligible properties within the project's APE by a Notification dated February 1, 2011 (see Notification in Appendix). A response was received from the Georgia SHPO to the Department's invitation to become a consulting party in the Section 106 process.

For each property 50 years old or older identified within the APE, a Property Information Form with attached photographs has been prepared. The Criteria of Eligibility was applied to each property and a recommendation regarding National Register eligibility has been made.

Of the three properties 50 years old or older that were surveyed and to which the Criteria of Eligibility was applied, none have been recommended eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.



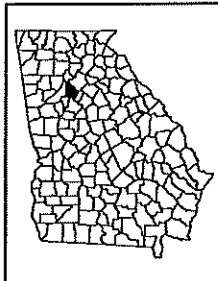
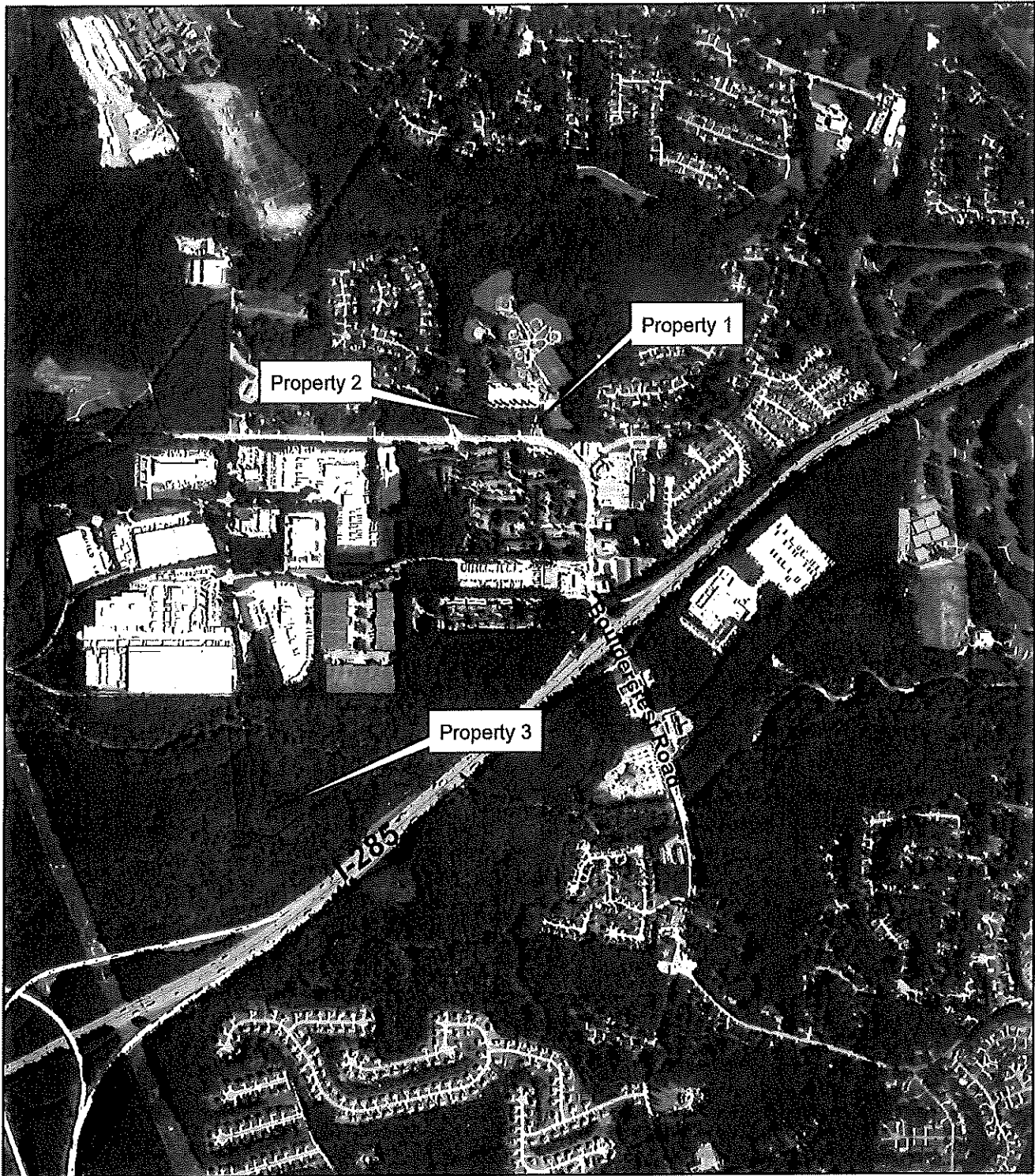
## Project Location Map

0 0.4 0.8 1.6 Miles

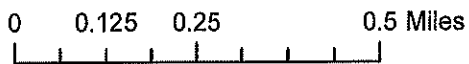
IMNH0-0285-01(352)  
 PI #713300  
 DeKalb County  
 Interstate Reconstruction







## Resource Location Map



P.I.#713300  
DeKalb County  
Interstate Reconstruction



## PROPERTY INFORMATION FORM

**Property Identification:** Property 1 is identified as such in the field notes and on the project location map. This property was not identified in any of the five DNR DeKalb County Surveys conducted between 1976 and 2006.

**Location:** The property is located at 2480 Bouldercrest Road (refer to project location map).

**Date(s) of Development:** According to the tax assessor's record, Property 1 was constructed in 1960. The property has been developed for commercial use in recent years; much of the remaining lawn has been paved for parking. The integrated carport is currently in the process of being enclosed, and a handicapped-accessible ramp has been added to the main entry porch. A large room has also been added to the north elevation.

**Description:** Property 1 is an example of a linear-with-clusters sub-type of the ranch house type (see attached photographs). The building has an overall T-shape with slight projections at the north and south elevations. A large carport accounts for the northern one-third of the overall building. The exterior walls are clad with a brick veneer. The building features a hipped roof with asphalt roll roofing; wide, overhanging boxed eaves; and a variety of window types set close to the roofline.

The main (south) elevation features a carport with projecting hipped roofline; a recessed, open porch with decorative supports and handrails, main entry, and large tripartite window (a row of three wood frame 2/2 double-hung sash windows); and three wood frame 2/2 double-hung sash windows. The windows and decorative porch supports are original, but the paneled front door appears to be a non-historic addition. A wooden ramp has been added to the eastern end of the porch. The carport has been partially enclosed along the east wall. The original carport wall appears to have featured open brick piers; these have since been enclosed and two wood frame 2/2 double-hung sash windows have been relocated from elsewhere on the building (possibly from the addition at the north elevation). It is common for ranch houses of this type to have porches that open to the carport; this was probably the case for this building, but unfinished construction in this area suggests a recent attempt to enclose the carport and convert it into a garage (possibly with a door leading to the front porch). The two doors along the east wall in the carport include an original, wood-paneled door and a non-historic replacement. The west elevation features two wood frame 2/2 double-hung sash windows of differing heights.

The north elevation is divided by a central projecting wing and a bead-board clad addition at the eastern end. This elevation features a variety of window types, including 2/2 wood-frame, paired 2/2 wood frame, and a paired, 1/1 aluminum frame jalousie window; an additional window has been enclosed with an air-conditioning unit.

The east elevation features three windows, including two relocated to the carport's west wall (possibly from the north elevation) and a boarded opening set at the roofline. Most of the original windows (wood frame 2/2 double-hung sash), here and in general, appear to be intact.

The driveway alignment and paved walk to the front stoop are most likely elements of the original design. The remainder of the once residential lawn space has been paved and converted for parking. The immediate setting includes foundational plantings and several large shade trees along the periphery. The northern half of the property has chain link fencing. The larger setting consists of predominantly non-historic residential and commercial development (i.e. gas stations and fast food restaurants); a ranch-type house to the west appears to be the only contemporary building in sight.

There are two outbuildings north of the principal building: a non-historic metal shed and brick storage structure. The brick structure is front-gabled with a collapsed asphalt shingle roof and wood frame construction visible in the interior. It has two entries through the south elevation (one pedestrian and the other resembles a narrow garage-type opening or possibly vertical hanging doors), a boarded window at the west elevation, and a wood frame 2/2 double-hung sash window at the north elevation. The materials (window, roofing, and brick) all closely resemble the principal building. This structure appears to be contemporaneous.

**National Register Recommendation:** The property is considered **Not Eligible** for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

**National Register Criteria and Level of Significance:** Property 1 was evaluated for eligibility for listing in the National Register using the National Register Criteria for Evaluation as outlined in 36 CFR Part 60.4. There are no known associations with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. There are no known associations with individuals whose specific contributions to history can be identified and documented with this property. No associations were indicated or suggested as a result of background research on the project area, in any response to the Department's early consultation correspondence received from consulting parties or in an interview with the current owners or occupants of the property. Therefore, there was no basis for evaluating the property under Criteria A or B. Also, there are no indications that the property is likely to yield information on important research questions in history or prehistory. This property does not appear to have the potential to be the principal source of important information. Therefore, there was no basis for evaluating the property under Criterion D.

Property 1 was evaluated under Criterion C and does not appear to possess significance in the area of architecture. The building features a linear plan (long and low) with red brick walls and a hipped roof; variety of window types and sizes (including a large tripartite window on the street-facing elevation) that are all near the roofline; a large open carport; and an open veranda with decorative metal supports at the main elevation. The building has sustained losses and alterations, including the replacement of the front door and one of the two carport doors; partial enclosure of the carport and relocation of original windows to the east wall; and an addition to the north elevation. The surrounding landscape has lost a key characteristic of ranch house architecture by converting the grassy lawn to paved parking. Collectively, these alterations to the main building and landscape diminish the historic appearance of this property and its ability to convey a strong association with ranch house architecture. The property is no longer a good representative example of the distinctly residential architectural form. Therefore, Property 1 is not considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

**Integrity:** Property 1 has been determined to possess integrity in the areas of location, materials, and workmanship. The building has not been moved. Despite a number of alterations to this building (i.e. replacement of doors, expansion to the north elevation, and alterations to the carport), it possesses enough of the original materials and architectural features to convey certain material attributes of the historic appearance. The alterations are substantial, but the original construction is sufficiently intact to convey the workmanship that went into its construction.

Property 1 has been determined not to possess integrity in the areas of design, setting, feeling, and association. Alterations to the carport, east elevation and north elevation are significant departures from the original design. The pavement of lawn space in addition to surrounding development has substantially altered the historic setting of this resource and diminished feeling. The building still closely resembles a ranch-type house, but the larger property and its surroundings have lost that connection with the historic environment. Similarly, these alterations have obscured any association between this property and ranch house architecture. There are also no known associations between the property and any other events or persons that could be deemed historically significant.

**Proposed Boundary (Justification and Description):** N/A

**UTM Coordinates:** 7.5 Minute Series Topographic Map. Atlanta SE Quadrangle Zone 16 Easting 749144.37 Northing 3730941.87.

**Prepared:** Completed pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(c) in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for GDOT Project IMNH0-0285-01(352), PI#713300, DeKalb County by:

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Property 1, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 1: Front (south) elevation; looking north.

Property 1, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 2: West elevation; looking northeast.



Photo 3: Rear (north) elevation; looking southeast.

Property 1, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 4: Rear (north) elevation; looking southwest.



Photo 5: East elevation; looking northwest.



Property 1, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 6: Carport door (south elevation); looking northwest.



Photo 7: Carport opening to porch (detail) at south elevation; looking northwest.



Property 1, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 8: Front yard setting; looking south.



Photo 9: Right-of-way; looking east.

Property 1, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 10: Right-of-way; looking west.

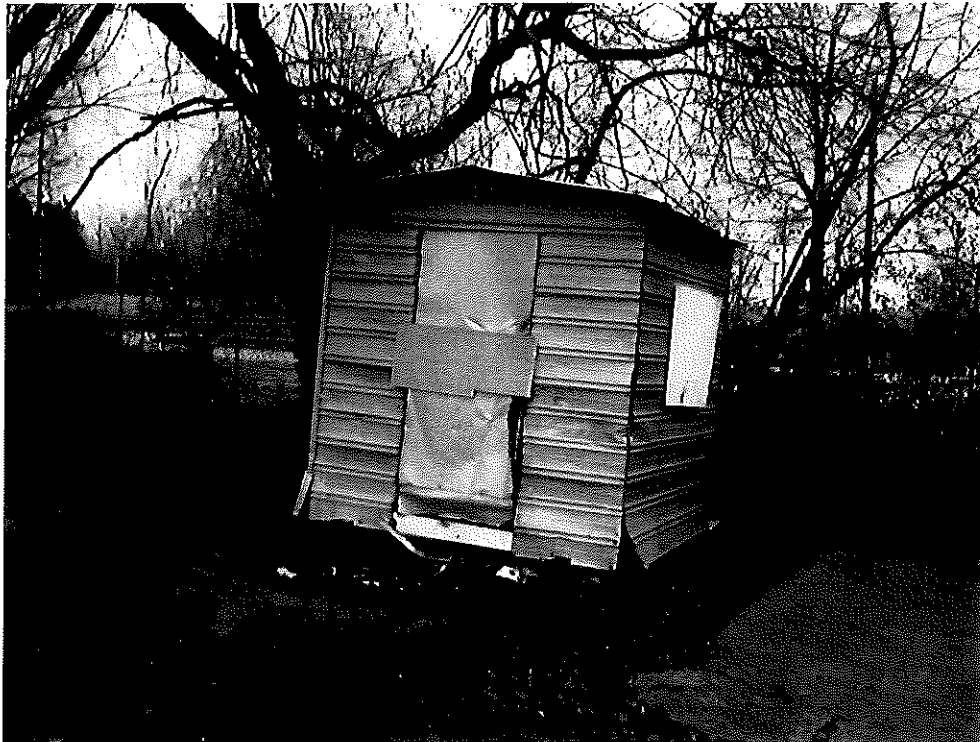


Photo 11: Aluminum outbuilding; looking northwest.

Property 1, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 12: Brick outbuilding; looking northeast.

## PROPERTY INFORMATION FORM

**Property Identification:** Property 2 is identified as such in the field notes and on the project location map. This property was not identified in any of the five DNR DeKalb County Surveys conducted between 1976 and 2006.

**Location:** The property is located at 2472 Bouldercrest Road (refer to project location map).

**Date(s) of Development:** According to the tax assessor's record, Property 2 was constructed in 1960. Beyond the replacement of doors and superficial alterations, such as the installation of burglar bars on the windows, there have been no recognizable alterations to the resource.

**Description:** Property 2 is an example of the compact subtype of the ranch house type. The building features brick walls; a rectangular plan with low-hipped roof and irregular roofline; a variety of windows set at the roofline; concrete slab porch at the street-facing elevation; and an integrated carport. The main (south) elevation features an open carport; a porch with side access from the driveway, featuring an unobstructed front door (non-historic paneled), a multi-glazed tripartite picture window, and decorative porch supports; and two paired, wood frame 6/6 double-hung sash windows. The west elevation features two wood frame 6/6 double-hung sash windows. The north elevation features a variety of window types, including wood frame 6/6 double-hung sash (occurring individually or in pairs and at varying heights) and one wood frame 8/8 double-hung sash. The eastern end projects slightly in the area of the carport where the utility room is located. The east elevation is comprised of the carport and utility room. The carport features decorative metal roof supports; a wood frame 8/8 double-hung sash window; two paneled doors (into the house and utility room – neither are original); and decorative extension of the ceiling paneling along the interior roofline. All of the original windows appear to be intact, but the doors have been replaced.

The immediate setting is grassy lawn with an immature cedar growing in the front yard and a number of larger trees growing along the property line in the back yard. A continuous row of foundational plantings exists along the south, west, and north foundations. The backyard is enclosed within a chain link fence. Commercial development along Bouldercrest Road has obscured the historic setting.

**National Register Recommendation:** The property is considered **Not Eligible** for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

**National Register Criteria and Level of Significance:** Property 2 was evaluated for eligibility for listing in the National Register using the National Register Criteria for Evaluation as outlined in 36 CFR Part 60.4. There are no known associations with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. There are no known associations with individuals whose specific contributions to history can be identified and documented with this property. No associations were indicated or suggested as a result of background research on the project area or in any response to the Department's early consultation correspondence received from consulting parties. Therefore, there was no basis for evaluating the property under Criteria A or B. Also, there are no indications that the property is likely to yield information on

important research questions in history or prehistory. This property does not appear to have the potential to be the principal source of important information. Therefore, there was no basis for evaluating the property under Criterion D.

Property 2 was evaluated under Criterion C and does not appear to possess significance in the area of architecture. The building possesses characteristics of ranch house architecture; it has an open floor plan, a variety of window sizes set close to the roofline, an un-obscured entry set within an integrated front porch, a prominent picture window on the street-facing elevation, and an integrated carport. Nevertheless, the house has lost the original doors, lacks a chimney, and does not reflect the characteristic long and low massing or the integration of interior and exterior space of ranch house architecture. For this reason, Property 2 is neither a distinctive nor a good and representative example of the ranch house type. Therefore, Property 2 is not considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

**Integrity:** Property 2 has been determined to possess integrity in the areas of location, materials, design, and workmanship. The building has not been moved. Despite losing the original doors, the building appears to retain most of the original material and the design has not been significantly altered. Given the limited alterations, the building retains integrity of workmanship as well.

Property 2 has not been determined to possess integrity in the areas of setting, feeling and association. The immediate setting of the property features a grassy lawn with foundational plantings and a number of large trees; the setting is characteristic of ranch house landscapes, but is greatly diminished by non-historic commercial development along Bouldercrest Road. While the immediate setting remains intact, the development along Bouldercrest Road and the surrounding properties has diminished the historic feeling of this property. Property 2 was constructed following ranch house principles of design but lacks key attributes (i.e. long and low massing, slab chimney, incorporation of interior and exterior space into the design) to maintain a clear association with ranch house architecture.

**Proposed Boundary (Justification and Description):** N/A

**UTM Coordinates:** 7.5 Minute Series Topographic Map. Atlanta SE Quadrangle Zone 16 Easting 749115.59 Northing 3730939.94.

**Prepared:** Completed pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(c) in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for GDOT Project IMNH0-0285-01(352), PI#713300, DeKalb County by:

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Property 2, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300

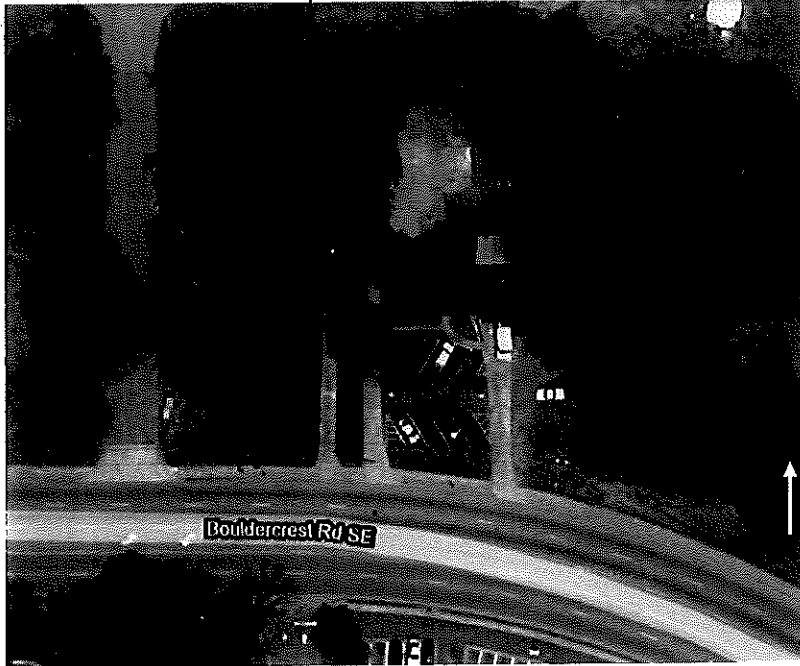


Photo 1: Front (south) elevation; looking northwest.

Property 2, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 2: West elevation; looking northeast.



Photo 3: Rear (north) elevation; looking southeast.



Property 2, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 4: Rear (north) elevation; looking southwest.



Photo 5: East elevation; looking west.



Property 2, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 6: Craw space grate (west elevation); looking east..



Photo 7: Front yard setting; looking southwest.

Property 2, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 8: Right-of-way; looking east.



Photo 9: Right-of-way; looking west.

## PROPERTY INFORMATION FORM

**Property Identification:** Property 3 is also identified as such in the field notes and on the project location map. This property was not identified in any of the five DNR DeKalb County Surveys conducted between 1976 and 2006.

**Location:** The property is located within a densely wooded tract of land northwest of I-285 and south of Constitution Road (refer to project location map). The property is located near the terminus of International Park Drive Southeast, where it ends in a cul-de-sac and continues across the South River as a sunken and overgrown roadbed into the woods. This roadbed is the northern remnant of West Side Place, which remains intact south of I-285.

**Date(s) of Development:** In 1926, Samuel Ernest Smith purchased a large tract of farmland along West Side Place, near the town of Constitution in DeKalb County; the property was previously known as the Redmon Place. The total acreage of the property at this time is not known but consisted of approximately 638 acres by the 1960s. The property, which was home to an earlier farm, became home to *SE Smith Dairy*. When S.E. Smith acquired the land, there were already three buildings in place: a large, shotgun farmhouse (B4); sleeping barn (B6); and a second barn (E) on the western side of West Side Place (opposite the other two buildings). S.E. Smith, his wife Lula Mae, and their four sons, lived together in the old farmhouse. By the family's account, the two-room farmhouse was built sometime in the 1870s.

The property was divided by South River, which ran across the center of the property, and a spring-fed stream to the south of the farm. Smith donated a small portion of his land along Constitution Road for Bouldercrest Elementary (which remains, but has been converted for use by an insulation company in recent years).

During the 1920s and 1930s, S.E. Smith constructed four tenant houses (A, B, B1, and B2) and a large craftsman farmhouse (B3) on the property. Smith's family recounts the popularity of farms in this area with tenant workers, who enjoyed the proximity to Grady Hospital, which offered free healthcare. S.E. Smith's farmhouse was completed in 1939. The cross-gabled craftsman cottage featured a massive central chimney and was clad in a quartzite stone veneer with attractive rounded masonry pointing; the stones for the house were collected by the family from the surrounding property.

S.E. Smith expanded the dairy barn as well by constructing the milking parlour (B5) and building a complex connecting them. A spring house was built along the stream to the south of the southern pastures. A small koi pond was built out of gathered stones just north of the older farmhouse (D). A circular, concrete basin was constructed alongside the koi pond; this was built for use in chilling large containers of milk (they would be left to soak in the cool water), but was more frequently used as a swimming pool by the Smith children. The family also raised rabbits at one time; a rabbit cage remains south of the old farm house.

S.E. Smith Dairy kept a fairly sizable herd of Holstein cattle, bottling their own milk and churning their own butter. The dairy served a community of more than 100 customers spanning

the Atlanta area. S.E. Smith was photographed by a local paper when his dairy barn was the first in the county to be fitted with a stainless-steel milk cooler (see photo 28).

There was growing concern over the potential health risks of raw milk in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, as studies began to reveal a potential link between milk and diseases like diphtheria, typhoid fever, tuberculosis, undulant fever, and pox. These concerns led to the federal *Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO)* in 1923, which restricted the shipment of raw milk between states. The pasteurization process stemmed from the experiments of Louis Pasteur in the 1860s, which showed the heating of milk could safely destroy harmful bacteria. Georgia passed pasteurization legislation in 1943. The new law was devastating for many of the smaller dairies in the state, which could not afford the expensive equipment that the process required. The onset of World War II complicated matters with the rationing of materials, making it difficult for many dairies to purchase pasteurization equipment anyway, and the substantial loss of workers to the war effort. Faced with a multitude of problems, many dairies turned to cooperatives to sell their product. S.E. Smith and fellow dairyman, Hiram Stubbs, developed the idea for a cooperative in the Atlanta area. Working with other dairies in the area, they established the *Atlanta Dairies Cooperative* in 1943. *Atlanta Dairies* would collect the milk from local dairies, pasteurize it, and distribute it locally. This made it possible for the smaller dairies to survive that might otherwise have been forced out of business. *Atlanta Dairies* was considered to be one of the largest cooperatives in the state. Stubbs served as Chairman of *Atlanta Dairies* until 1977 and S.E. Smith as Vice President until 1963. The cooperative was eventually purchased by *Parmalat*, which remains on the same site on Memorial Drive as the cooperative.

When S.E. Smith's youngest son, Charles Henry Smith married Evelyn Ona Wilson around 1949, he moved into the old farmhouse on the property. C.H. Smith built a workshop off the rear of his property out of concrete blocks and expanded the old house. C.H. Smith added two rooms to the north elevation; one room to the south elevation; a kitchen to the east elevation and later a bathroom; and then screened in the porch on the west elevation. He also installed storage troughs for silage, which consisted of a mixture of various crops and brewer's yeast from a local brewery that was churned and stored as food for the cattle during the winter months. C.H. Smith also built the wooden bridge across the South River that remains in place today.

In the early 1960s, the state developed plans for the construction of a new interstate bypass (I-285) through the Smith property. The proposed path of I-285 would bisect the parcel, obliterating a section of West Side Place, demolishing the well house near the southern portion of the property, and severing approximately 55 acres from the greater property. Despite efforts to resist the development, the Smith family ultimately sold the property in the early 1960s and retired from the dairy industry, like so many others in the 1960s and 1970s.

The property was never again used either for agricultural purposes or as a residence. The entire parcel north of the South River was developed for commercial storage and warehousing. The remainder of the property and its many buildings and structures were left to deteriorate. Dense brush and vegetation grew up, and with the assistance of natural weathering and vandalism, slowly demolished the standing structures and erased the *S.E. Smith Dairy* from sight.

**Description:** Property 3 is an early-20<sup>th</sup> century dairy farm. The property has suffered decades of vandalism and deterioration, so few buildings or structures remain standing or otherwise intact. Today, the property consists of six standing structures, an historic bridge over the South River, and six ruined structures.

The bridge over the South River is a simple wood stringer bridge with concrete abutments (Photos 6-7). It features raised tracks across the surface for vehicles. The somewhat narrow bridge was built by C.H. Smith, presumably between the 1950s and early 1960s, when he resided on the parcel. The wood is weathered and has been worn by use, and appears to be historic.

Two tenant houses remain intact (B1 and B2, see Photos 8-12). They are both pyramidal cottages with no evident style on raised foundations of brick piers. The two buildings feature drop siding, exposed rafters, tin roofing, and a large, internal chimney. Though the buildings are standing, they are both in advanced stages of deterioration. All of the doors and windows are missing from both buildings, as are large sections of sheathing, flooring, and, in the case of B2, one exterior wall. The two buildings are in a densely vegetated area and are separated by the old roadbed of West Side Place (see photo 10).

There were two more tenant houses identified by the Smith Family on historic aerials, but neither building remains; however, the ruins were identified (see photos 16 and 17 for ruins A and B). Ruin A consists of a concrete slab foundation with the remnant of a tin roof. All that remains of Ruin B is a stone and brick chimney.

The farmhouse built by S.E. Smith (B3) has been reduced to a standing brick chimney, a brick foundation wall, and a standing room in what would have been the basement of the house (see photos 13-14).

The remains of the second barn (E) that was already on the property in 1926, when S.E. Smith purchased the land, consists only of a raised concrete foundation (see photo 15).

The older farmhouse (B4) remains standing, though badly deteriorated. The farmhouse is essentially a front-gabled shotgun style house with no apparent style and a hipped rear (east) elevation (see photos 18-21). The additions (two rooms off the north elevation, a third off the south elevation, and kitchen and bathroom off the east elevation) are all essentially intact, though in varying states of decay. The porch addition off the main (west) elevation has collapsed along with a portion of the first floor exterior wall. The building features a variety of window types and sizes (though none remain); drop siding for the additions and lapped siding on the original exterior walls; exposed and unornamented rafters; tin roofing; and a large, brick internal chimney. Little of the interior surfaces remains intact; the walls have been stripped down to the studs in most places, leaving little more than the skeleton of the original house intact.

To the east of the older farmhouse are the ruined foundations of C.H. Smith's workshop (C, see photos 22-23). The foundation consists of a series of concrete slabs and blocks.

The remains of an old koi pond and a milk cooling pool (D) are slightly to the north of the older farmhouse and workshop. The koi pond (see photo 25) consists of a sunken stone wall

(essentially existing at-grade) that has been filled in and overgrown with vegetation. The stone appears to be uncoursed. The milk cooling pool (see photo 24) consists of a shallow concrete basin that appears to have been whitewashed. It is essentially intact. Both the koi pond and cooling pool were pipe fed; the pipes remain intact.

A small wood-frame rabbit house with tin roofing stands south of the old farmhouse (see photo 26). The structure is closed on three sides and is open on the fourth, where the opening is enclosed with a chicken wire. It stands low to the ground, making it difficult to distinguish from the surrounding vegetation.

The largest of the surviving buildings is the remains of a large dairy complex. The complex consists of a milking parlour (B5, see photos 27-30), animal shelter (see photo 31), and a large sleeping barn (B6, see photo 34) connected by a long, concrete ramp (see photo 33).

The western room of the milking parlour has standing walls and partial ceilings of concrete, in addition to concrete floors and an integrated drainage system; portions of the wooden stanchions remain as well. None of the doors remain in the milking parlour, but most of the iron frame windows remain intact. The two types of windows present are two-glazed, side-opening iron-frame sashes and tripartite windows with a single, tri-glazed column with tri-glazed, side-opening iron frame sashes on each side, and a row of three glazed panels across the top of the window. The milking parlour has been overtaken by vegetation; the one standing room was inaccessible due to an abundance of poison ivy around the entrances.

A small, wood-frame shelter with tin roofing stands northeast of the milking parlour. Most of the roofing and siding has been lost.

The sleeping barn (B6) consists of a long, low-standing concrete block wall. Without the use of historic aerial photography, the size of this structure would be difficult to determine. Vegetation grows densely throughout the interior of this ruin; it is only distinguishable from its surroundings in areas where the concrete wall is visible.

The remains of additional outbuildings (F) associated with the sleeping barn lay to the west of the barn (see photo 35). Consisting only of a concrete foundation and rubble, there is little historic material remaining.

The setting of Property 3 is characterized by dense vegetation, consisting of both young and mature trees and thick underbrush. Vegetation overwhelms the remaining historic structures and buildings in most locations, frequently obstructing viewsheds between them. In most locations, I-285 can be heard through the vegetation, though it is not visible from any of the component structures, buildings, or ruins.

**National Register Recommendation:** The property is considered **Not Eligible** for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

**National Register Criteria and Level of Significance:** Property 3 was evaluated for eligibility for listing in the National Register using the National Register Criteria for Evaluation as outlined

in 36 CFR Part 60.4. There are no known associations with individuals whose specific contributions to history can be identified and documented with this property. No associations with significant persons were indicated or suggested as a result of background research on the project area and deed research on the property, in any response to the Department's early consultation correspondence received from consulting parties or in an interview with the current owners or occupants of the property. Therefore, there was no basis for evaluating the property under Criterion B.

Property 3 was evaluated under Criterion A and was found to lack sufficient integrity to convey a significant association with Agriculture. The history of the S.E. Smith Dairy reflects events that shaped the economy of DeKalb County during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, which was primarily an agrarian economy leading the dairy industry in the southeast until after World War II, when interests shifted towards suburbanization and residential development. S.E. Smith Dairies closed its doors along with so many others during the 1960s and 1970s; there were few operating dairies remaining in DeKalb County by the onset of the 1980s. Unfortunately, the link between that history and this property has been obscured and effectively broken by decades of deterioration, vandalism, and plant growth. Less than half of the original structures and buildings identified in historic aerials are recognizable today. There are no agricultural fields, and the historic road through the farm has been obliterated. Only wooded areas remain. Therefore, this property does not convey significance under Criterion A as a good and representative example of an early-twentieth century agricultural farm complex.

Property 3 was evaluated under Criterion C and does not appear to possess significance in the area of Architecture. The property retains several component resources, such as the shotgun-type farmhouse and two pyramidal cottages, which represent architectural types that have been identified in Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings as significant to Georgia's architectural heritage; however, these resources lack integrity of design (in the case of the shotgun-type farmhouse, which was altered significantly from its type by numerous historic alterations), materials (in the case of all three resources, which have lost much of the historic materials), and are not considered to be good and representative examples of their respective types. None of the other component resources associated with agriculture remain sufficiently intact to convey a clear association with architecture. Therefore, Property 3 does not convey significance under Criterion C for Architecture.

Property 3 was evaluated under Criterion D and does not appear to have the potential to be the principal source of important information. Given the lack of material integrity among the remaining standing structures, any potential informational value provided by this resource would presumably reside within archaeological deposits. However, archaeological surveys of the property conducted by Tom Lewis of Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc. have revealed highly disturbed archaeological deposits that provide little information about the agricultural activities that occurred at this site; in fact, it appears that the historical research undertaken for this report, which included interviews with the family of S.E. Smith, have provided a greater wealth of information than the property itself is able to convey. Therefore, Property 3 does not possess significance under Criterion D for information potential.

For these reasons, Property 3 is not considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

**Integrity:** Property 3 has been determined to possess integrity in the area of location, as none of the component resources have been moved. However, Property 3 has been determined not to possess integrity in the areas of materials, design, workmanship, setting, feeling, or association. The Property and its component resources more closely reflect the four decades of deterioration after the Smith family sold the property than they do any agricultural use that preceded it. Few of the historic buildings and structures remain intact and capable of conveying the historic design, materials, and craftsmanship that went into their construction. The agricultural fields that characterized the property prior to the 1960s have been lost in the extensive growth of vegetation, which has overtaken most of the historic buildings and structures, obscuring any connections among them and with the surrounding landscape; so, the historic setting is lost. Similarly, the combined alterations to the component resources and the landscape in general have completely obscured any association with or the feeling of the agricultural activities that defined the use of this property historically.

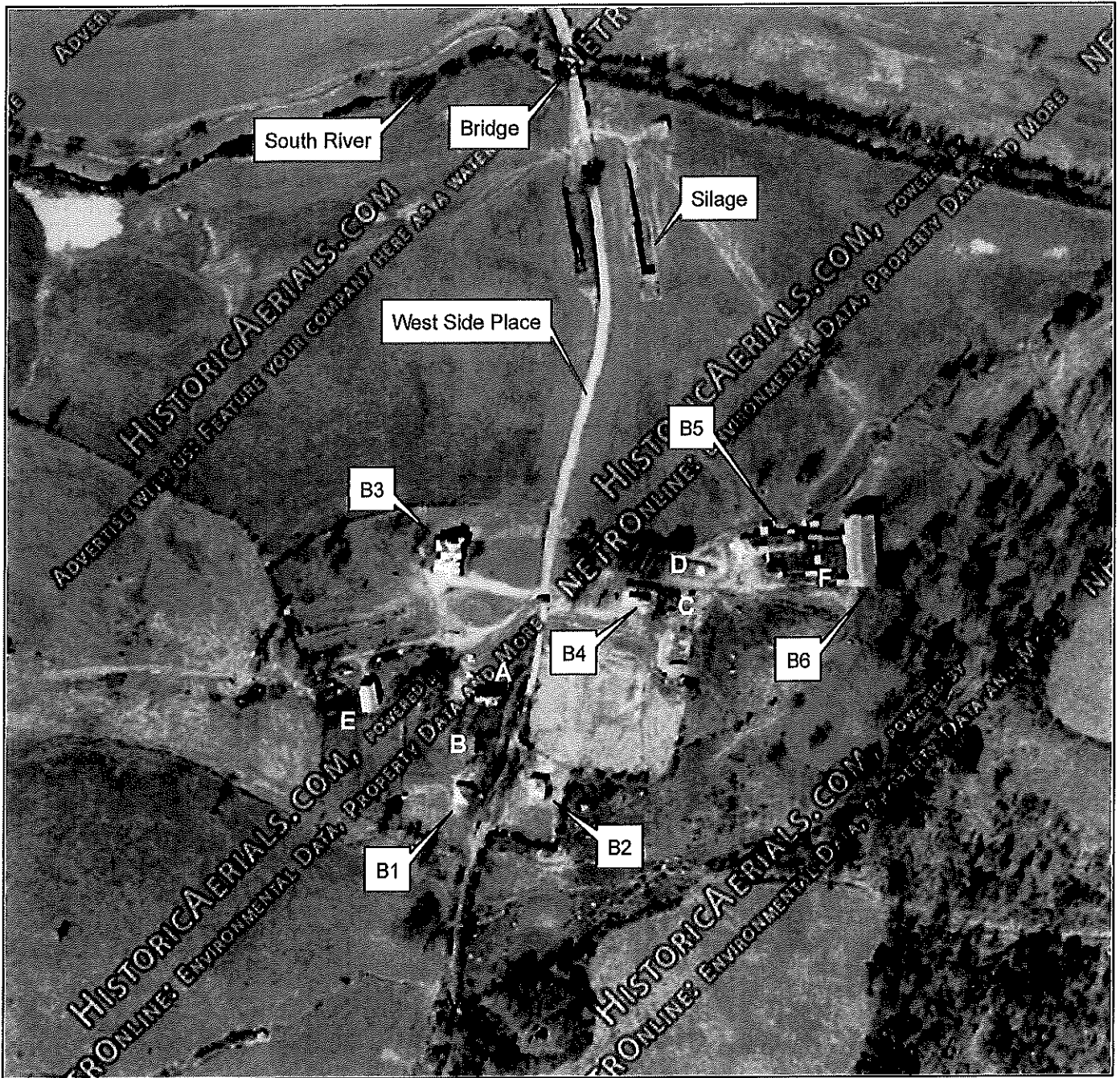
**Proposed Boundary (Justification and Description):** N/A




**UTM Coordinates:** 7.5 Minute Series Topographic Map. Atlanta SE Quadrangle Zone 16 Easting 748384.99 Northing 3729748.60.

**Prepared:** Completed pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(c) in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for GDOT Project IMNH0-0285-01(352), PI#713300, DeKalb County by:

Matthew Kear  
Historian  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
Office of Environmental Services  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree Street, NW, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308  
(404) 631-1468





	<p align="center"><b>Resource Location Map for Property 3 (1960 Aerial)</b></p>	<p align="center">P.I.#713300 DeKalb County Interstate Reconstruction</p>	
	<p align="center">Not to Scale</p>	<p align="center">  Extant Buildings         </p>	

Property 3, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300

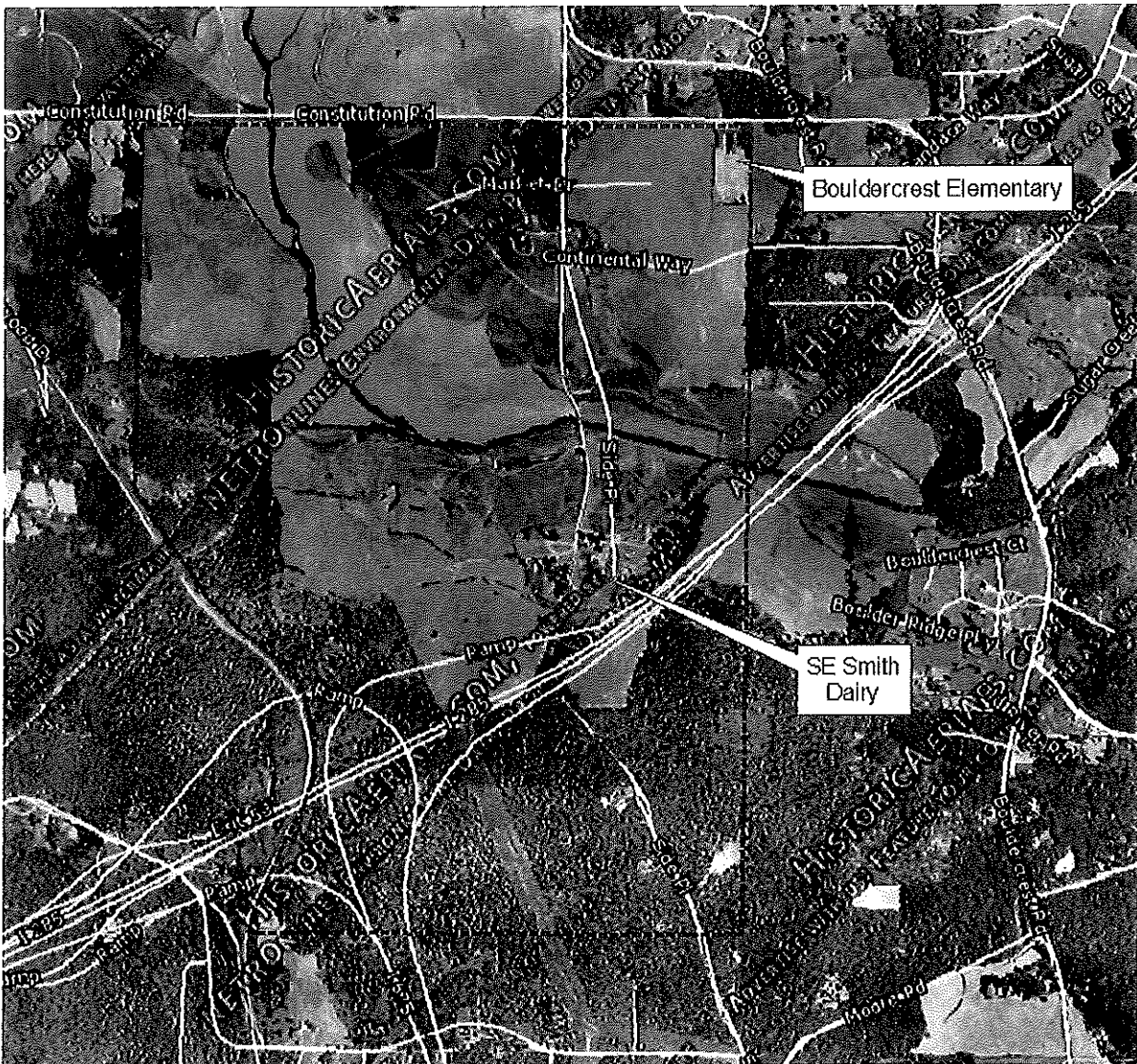


Photo 1: 1955 Aerial with approximate property boundary and modern roads overlaid. (Source: HistoricAerials.com, modified by Author)

Property 3, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300

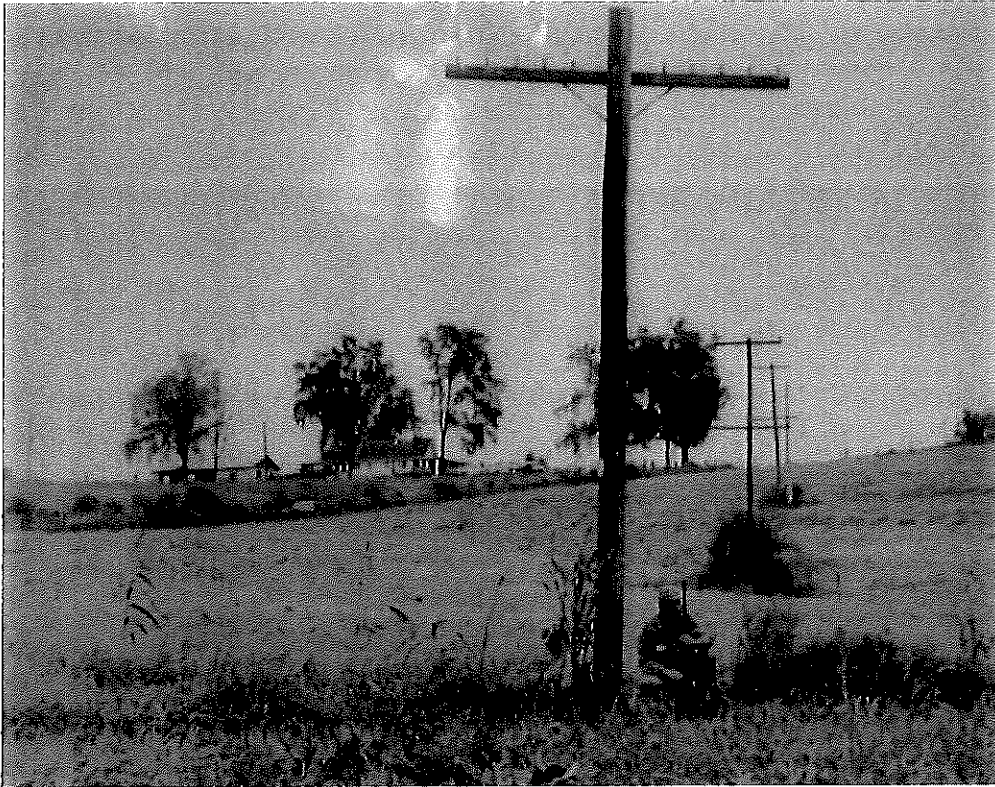


Photo 2: A hunter crouching by a power line with the old farmhouse (B4) and CH Smith's workshop (C) in the background. (Source: Smith Family)



Photo 3: S.E. Smith Farmhouse (B3) in 1966. (Source: Smith Family)

Property 3, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 4: S.E. Smith in front of his home (B3) in the early 1960s. (Source: Smith Family)



Photo 5: The old farmhouse (B4) during a hunt in the 1960s. (Source: Smith Family)



Property 3, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 6: Bridge over South River, erected by C.H. Smith (north approach); looking south.



Photo 7: Bridge over South River, east span; looking northwest.

Property 3, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 8: Tenant house (B1), east elevation; looking southwest.



Photo 9: Tenant house (B1) interior; looking east.

Property 3, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 10: Roadbed of West Side Place between tenant houses (B1 & B2); looking southeast.



Photo 11: Tenant house (B2), west elevation; looking east.

Property 3, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 12: Tenant house (B2) interior room; looking north.



Photo 13: S.E. Smith farmhouse (B3), central chimney in foundation ruins; looking south.



Property 3, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 14: S.E. Smith farmhouse (B3), interior room; looking northwest.



Photo 15: Remains of original barn (E) to the west of West Side Place; looking south.

Property 3, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 16: Remains of tenant house (A); looking northeast.



Photo 17: Remains of tenant house (B); looking southeast.

Property 3, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 18: Old farmhouse (B4), south elevation; looking north.



Photo 19: Old farmhouse (B4), north elevation; looking southwest.

Property 3, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 20: Old farmhouse (B4), west elevation; looking southeast.



Photo 21: Old farmhouse (B4), interior; looking northwest.

Property 3, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 22: Remains of C.H. Smith's workshop (C), east of the old farmhouse; looking west.



Photo 23: Remains of C.H. Smith's workshop (C); looking southeast.

Property 3, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 24: Milk cooling pool (D); looking northeast.



Photo 25: Remains of koi pond, west of milk cooling pool; looking northwest.



Property 3, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 26: Rabbit house, south of old farm house; looking southwest.



Photo 27: Milking barn (B5), west elevation of western room; looking southeast.

Property 3, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300

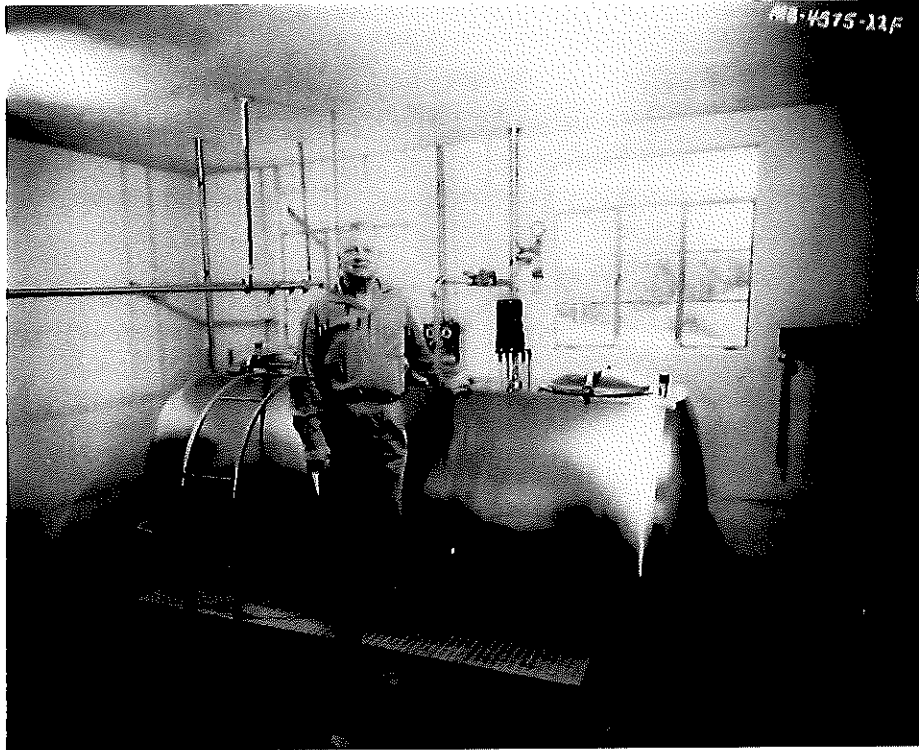


Photo 28: S.E. Smith inside his milking barn (B5); photo shows the interior, north elevation wall of the western room. (Source: The Smith Family)



Photo 29: Milking barn (B5), interior door of western room; looking west.



Property 3, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 30: Interior of milking barn (B5), cattle stanchion remnants and drains; looking southeast.



Photo 31: Milking barn (B5), northern cattle shelter; looking north.

Property 3, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 32: Milking barn (B5), exterior drain from stanchion room and culvert; looking south.



Photo 33: Cattle ramp between milking barn (B5) and sleeping barn (B6); looking west.

Property 3, DeKalb County  
P.I. #713300



Photo 34: Sleeping barn (B6), west elevation; looking northeast.



Photo 35: Remains of structures (F) association with the sleeping barn; looking southwest.

**APPENDIX**  
**NOTIFICATION**  
**AND**  
**EARLY CONSULTATION CORRESPONDENCE**



HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

MARK WILLIAMS  
COMMISSIONER

DR. DAVID CRASS  
DIVISION DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Glenn S. Bowman  
State Environmental Administrator  
Office of Environmental Services  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
Attn: Matthew Kear (mkear@dot.ga.gov)

FROM: Amanda Schraner *ALS*  
Transportation Projects Coordinator  
Historic Preservation Division

RE: Receipt of Early Coordination Information

**Project Title: PI 713300**  
**Interchange Improvements, I-285 at Bouldercrest Road and I-285 at I-675**

**Project Number: HP-110201-001**

County: DeKalb

DATE: February 3, 2011

The Historic Preservation Division has received the early coordination information required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Georgia Environmental Policy Act (GEPA). Thank you for submitting this information, and we look forward to working with you in the future as this project progresses.

ALS:ebp



## NOTIFICATION

### Initiation of Section 106 Process for GDOT Project IMNH0-0285-01(352); DeKalb County

P.I. #713300

February 1, 2011

The Georgia Department of Transportation (Department) is in the beginning stages of project development for this proposed transportation project. In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Department has determined that because of the nature and the scope of this undertaking, the proposed project has the potential to cause effects to historic properties if any such properties exist in the project area. The Department is attempting to identify historic properties already listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and any properties not already listed that would be considered eligible for listing that are located within the geographic area of potential effects (APE) of the proposed project.

This project provides for the reconstruction of the I-285/Bouldercrest Road interchange and includes braided ramps between the I-675/I-285 interchange and the I-285/Bouldercrest Road interchange (see attached map). On Bouldercrest Road, the project extends north from just north of the South River (MP4.10) to just west of the Bouldercrest Lane/Bouldercrest Road intersection (MP 5.02). On I-285, the project extends from the I-675 southbound exit ramps (MP 52.46) to just east of Sugar Creek (MP 50.45) (see attached location map). Existing right-of-way (ROW) is 60-100-ft. on Bouldercrest Road and 300-ft. on I-285. Proposed ROW would be a maximum of 180-ft. on Bouldercrest Road and 300-1550-ft. on I-285.

Because of the nature and scope of the undertaking, the APE is limited to the proposed right-of-way and viewshed of the proposed project, within which all construction and ground disturbing activity would be confined (refer to attached location map). Because a number of new intersections would be created on this new location roadway, the potential for indirect effects outside the project corridor exists. This potential for indirect effects will be further valuated as projected data becomes available and a clearer picture of possible changes in traffic patterns and development pressures emerge.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires the Federal Highway Administration and the Georgia Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer, to identify potential consulting parties and to invite them to participate in the Section 106 process. This Notification letter is one of several methods the Department uses to encourage public participation in this process and it serves as your invitation to participate as a consulting party in the Section 106 process for this project.

A written request to become a consulting party for cultural resources for this project should be directed to:

Glenn Bowman, P.E.  
Department of Transportation  
Office of Environmental Services  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree Street, NW, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Attn: Matthew Kear

Responses would be appreciated within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Notification letter. Please refer to the project identification number (P.I. 713300) in your response. The potential consulting parties identified and invited to participate in the Section 106 process for this project are the Atlanta Regional Commission, Georgia SHPO, DeKalb History Center, and the DeKalb County Commission. If you are aware of other organizations or individuals interested in cultural resources in the project area not already identified, please forward their names to the Department.

Also, on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration Georgia Division (FHWA), in keeping with a government-to-government relationship and in compliance with 36CFR800, the following tribal governments are invited to participate in the Section 106 process for this project: Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Muscogee (Creek) National Council, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Seminole Tribe of Florida, and the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. Responses to this Notification regarding tribal concerns should be addressed to the attention of Mr. Jim Pomfret, the Department's Native American liaison, at the above address.

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been checked to determine if any are located within the APE of this undertaking. This review of existing information revealed that no properties listed in or nominated for listing in the NRHP, no National Historic Landmarks and no bridges determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register in the updated Georgia Historic Bridge Survey (GHBS) are located within the proposed project's APE. No properties 50 years old or older were identified within the proposed project's APE in the 1997 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) DeKalb County Survey.

Field surveys for both historic properties and archaeological sites will be conducted and the Criteria of Eligibility will be applied in consultation with the Georgia SHPO and other consulting parties to determine if any of these sites are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

Consulting parties are also invited to provide information concerning any historic or archaeological properties already listed in the NRHP or that could be eligible for listing in the NRHP that are not identified in this Notification letter. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Department will assess project effects to any identified historic properties as preliminary project plans become available, endeavor to minimize harm to all identified historic properties and produce an Assessment of Effects report. This document will be provided to all consulting parties for comment when completed. The Department also wishes to know of any past, present or future local developments or zoning plans which may

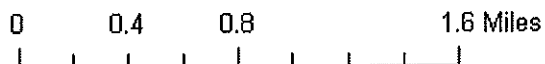
result in indirect or cumulative impacts to archaeological sites and historic structures as they relate to the proposed project.

Individuals and organizations that do not wish to become a consulting party, but would still like to comment on the proposed project will also have that opportunity throughout the plan development process. Historic resource concerns can be addressed to Matthew Kear (404-631-1468 or [mkear@dot.ga.gov](mailto:mkear@dot.ga.gov)); archaeological resource concerns, including cemetery and other human burials, can be addressed to Jim Pomfret (404-631-1256 or [jpomfret@dot.ga.gov](mailto:jpomfret@dot.ga.gov)) of this office. Questions concerning general design or location issues may be addressed to Jeremy Busby (770-528-3238 or [jbusby@dot.ga.gov](mailto:jbusby@dot.ga.gov)) of the Department's Atlanta General Office.





## Project Location Map



IMNH0-0285-01(352)  
 PI #713300  
 DeKalb County  
 Interstate Reconstruction



**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2011 8:18 AM

**Subject:** RE: West Side Place/Bouldercrest/Constitution Road Property

Hello Claudia,

This is *wonderful* – thank you so much for your help! I knew there had to be someone around that was familiar with this farm, but honestly didn't think I would get to speak with a member of the family. I would like to meet her in person and go through the aerial photos and those from my survey of the site. I will keep you posted on what I find out if you are interested.

Thanks again for your help!

Best, Matthew

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2011 4:46 PM

**Subject:** West Side Place/Bouldercrest/Constitution Road Property

Dear Matt,

When I suggested that the subject property might have been in Winn Smith's family, I thought that the odds of locating anyone named Smith (especially a woman, who had probably changed her last name when she married) from 45 years ago was truly a longshot. Fortunately, my former elementary-school classmate Winn Smith Floyd is active on her high school reunion committee, and I located her within minutes. I sent her an e-mail, she phoned last night, and we had a wonderful visit via telephone.

The short version of our hour-long conversation is this:

- Yes, West Side Place ran through their land. The land in question (and the buildings thereon) were part of Winn's parents' and grandparents' dairy farm.
- Winn's grandfather Smith did indeed take his milk to Atlanta Dairies Cooperative (then located at 777 Memorial Drive in southeast Atlanta)--but here's the part I didn't know and find truly memorable: **Mr. Smith founded Atlanta Dairies Cooperative**, where most of the local dairymen (my father included) took their milk for sale.
- Winn's grandfather bought the farm in the 1920s or 1930s.
- Winn, her parents, siblings, and grandparents lived on the land until the early to mid-1960s.
- The buildings that you are likely to have found are

- the milking barn (very large; they had a huge herd of Holsteins); (Winn thinks that this had already been built when her grandfather purchased the farm but says that it's probably no more than eighty or eighty-five years old.)
- **a white frame house**, where Winn and her family lived; (It had several additions, including a concrete-block garage; **but the original building, an old "shotgun" style house, dates back to 1870.** Winn says that it's in bad condition, with trees growing up through it.)
- the remains of her grandparents' house. Her father, grandfather, and one or two other male relatives built it. It was covered with fieldstone, which the men in the family dug up from the surrounding fields. It was beautiful at one time, but the stones were removed by persons unknown; and apparently the building has suffered extensive fire damage and further vandalism.

As I mentioned yesterday, the Smith farm covered a very large tract of land. Winn tells me that I-285 cut through the farm, separating the main dairy farm from about fifty acres on the other side of the highway.

Our elementary school, Bouldercrest, on Constitution Road, was built on land that adjoined the Smiths' fields. The former school building is now an insulation company.

I was thrilled beyond words to learn that we are having an elementary school reunion on October 8. The insulation company has agreed to let us tour the building on that morning. I think it will feel absolutely surreal, but I can hardly wait.

Anyway, I hope you find this information useful. If you like, I'll e-mail Winn with your contact information and ask her to get in touch with you; or I can just ask if it's OK (as I'm sure it will be) to pass on her contact information to you. She'll certainly be able to answer your questions better than I can, but I couldn't wait to share this much with you.

# COVER STORY

From Page 1

Standing outside Ted's Constitution Grocery, one can easily imagine himself 500 miles and a few decades from downtown.

If Mrs. Nelson's store seems to be a tangible link with the past, it is a rare commodity in the little community. It may not be the lost city of Atlantis, but Constitution is largely an enigma, a name on the map of Atlanta that one cannot help but feel must have some history.

Even people who have lived most of their lives there have little idea of why Constitution exists. Most are like Mrs. Nelson, who says, "Lord, I never thought about it much."

"As far as I know, it never was a town. But I do know once it used to be a good bit more than it is now. Now, everybody asks you where you live, you say Constitution and they don't know what you're talking about."

"I remember one day I went to the meat market to get some things for the store here, and they asked where it should be delivered. I told 'em Ted's Grocery in Con-

The prison farm near Constitution is a resting home for Atlanta police horses.

stitution and they said 'that's a newspaper.' I said yeah it is but it's my store, too."

When told no one seems to know how Constitution got its name, Mrs. Nelson shook her head and said, "I'll be dogged if I know either...it's just been called Constitution ever since I remember."

Mrs. Nelson and her mother Emma, who turned 100 in April, came to the community in the late 1920s. They lived on Fleetwood Road, one of the four small roads — country lanes, really — that join Fayetteville Road near Ted's Constitution Grocery.

At the time, the center of town, if it could be so called, was on Moreland Avenue, where today an industrial park and commercial development has obliterated any trace of the past.

The "highway," as Mrs. Nelson calls it, was built about 1935, she said. The only reason she remembered she said, was because she was married in 1936 and had dated a boy who worked on the road project, "which meant the highway must have been built before '36."

Mrs. Nelson's father was a farmer. "I remember

my daddy out there plowing all day in the field. I don't see how he done it."

Such personal recollections are about all one can find of the community's history. Constitution, now embodied in a small neighborhood just to the east of Moreland Avenue, is a place that has been both unscathed and ignored by the passing years and civilization's assaults.

Some of its modern residents have to think a bit before remembering they live in a community unto itself. Lester Woodcock, who lives with his mother Frankie in a modest home just down from Mrs. Nelson's store, says he just thinks of it as south Atlanta. "I don't really think of it as separate...just a part of Atlanta."

But his mother, who came to Constitution from Valdosta about 35 years ago, said the community has "changed a pretty good bit. I still think of it as Constitution, though."

Likewise, people in county and state government and in historical circles have few if any ideas about the community's history.

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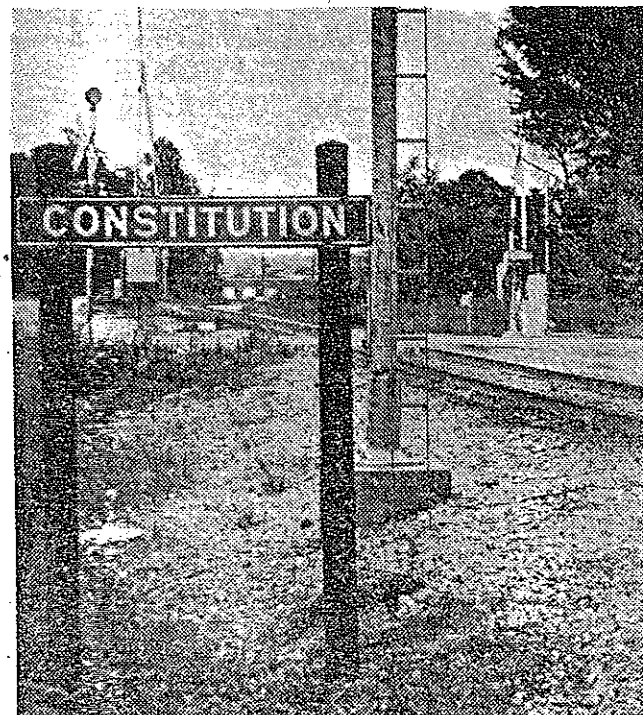


**Lester Woodcock, who lives with his mother Frankie in a modest home just down from Mrs. Nelson's store, says he just thinks of Constitution as south Atlanta. 'I don't really think of it as separate ... just a part of Atlanta.' But his mother, who came to Constitution from Valdosta about 35 years ago, said the community has "changed a pretty good bit. I still think of it as Constitution, though.' (Photo — Nona Boyd)**

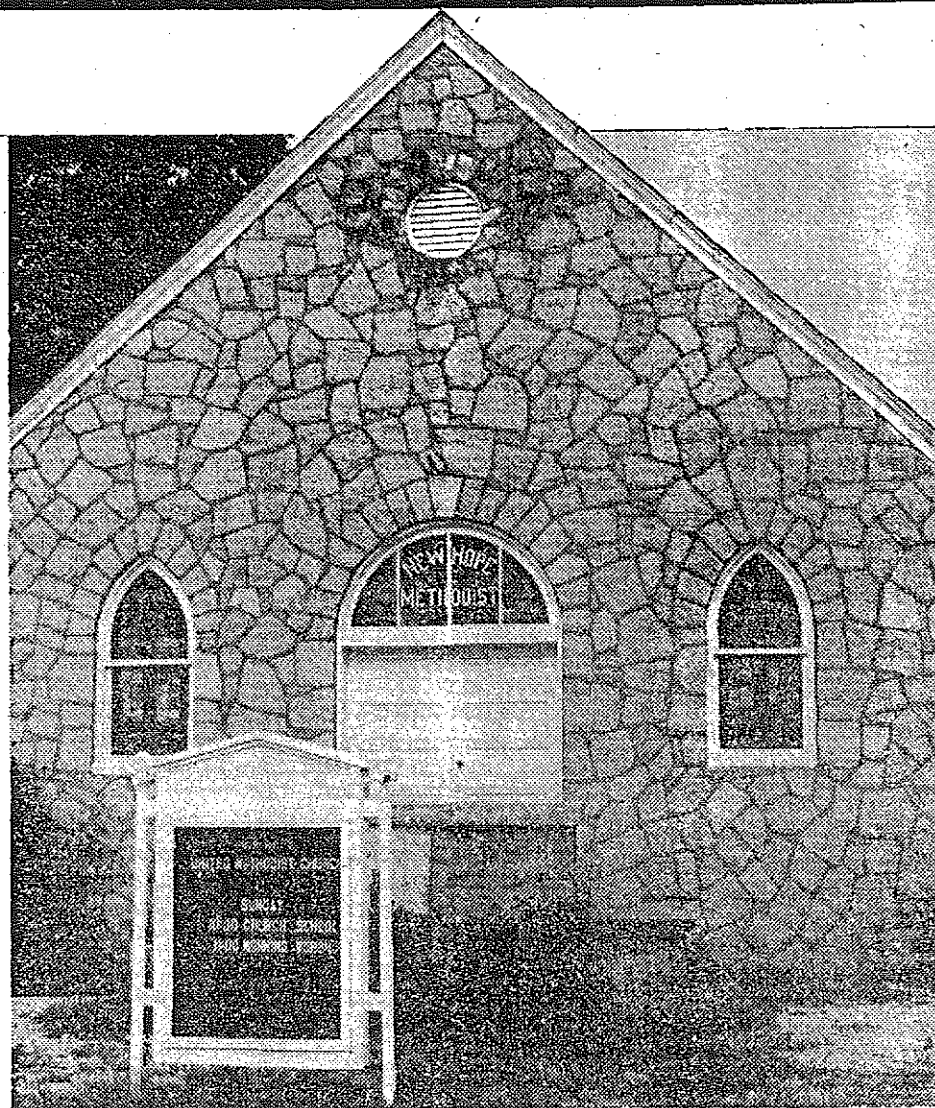


**Florence Hendrix has lived in Constitution since she was 16 and remembers when her father worked as a guard at the prison farm. She's 60 now. Even people who have lived most of their lives there have little idea of why Constitution exists. (Photo — Nona Boyd)**

## COVER STORY



One thing is certain: There was a time when Constitution was more than just a word on a sign at the junction of the Southern Railway line and Fayetteville Road. One authority says Constitution was a 'flag stop' for local trains on the Southern line from Atlanta to Macon. '... Years years ago it was a well-known locality.' (Photo — Scott Thurston)



Constitution's oldest church, New Hope Methodist, was founded in 1869. Graves date to 1877. (Photo — Nona Boyd)



... REVIOUS Page

The most recent record of Constitution's population, in fact, comes from a newspaper published in 1889. It said about 125 people lived there.

It is doubtful that figure has varied much over the years.

One thing is certain: There was a time when Constitution was more than just a word on a sign at the junction of the Southern Railway line and Fayetteville Road.

According to Franklin Garrett of the Atlanta Historical Society, of whom it said no one knows more about north Georgia history, Constitution was a "flag stop" for local trains on the Southern line from Atlanta to Macon.

"It wasn't built up much, rather remote," said Garrett. "But years ago it was a well-known locality.

"You seldom hear it referred to now...just seems to have gotten lost in the urban sprawl."

Its name, he said, remains a mystery. "I don't know why it was called Constitution. Maybe it was because it was patriotic and sounded nice."

Patriotism may well have been the source of its name, for evidence suggests the community came to be in the post-Civil War period.

Lester Woodcock recalled when a historical marker stood at the corner of Baily St. and Fayetteville Road, near the current site of Mrs. Nelson's store. "Something about General Hardee's march," he said.

The marker is gone now, perhaps symbolizing the vagueness of Constitution's origin. But according to state archivists, (who noted that DeKalb County has the highest percentage of missing historical markers in the state) the marker did indeed describe the march of Gen. Hardee, who passed through the area during his attempt to attack the union rear during the Battle of Atlanta in 1864.

No mention, however, was made of any settlement or community of any name. Yet, a civil war map of Atlanta drawn in 1937 on display at the DeKalb Historical Society clearly shows a town called Constitution on the route of Hardee's march.

And longtime residents like Mrs. Nelson — she reckons she's spent "about two-thirds" of her 65 years there — say the community was well-established by then.

In addition, Constitution's community church, the New Hope Methodist Church on Moreland Avenue, was established in 1869.

Gravestones in the New Hope cemetery date to 1877.

So it is safe to say Constitution is more than 100 years old.

Its beginnings may have been tied to Cobb's Mill up

Fayetteville Road on Intrenchment — now modernized to Entrenchment — Creek, which was begun before the Civil War by DeKalb pioneer William Cobb.

According to Garrett, there were other industrial activities in the area as well, including a grist mill, a cotton gin and a stone quarry.

The Southern Railway had established a depot at the Fayetteville Road crossing by 1927, he said, an indication that there was a fair amount of activity in the area.

Yet, no record or trace of the depot remains. Southern officials aren't even sure when the depot was abandoned.

"We don't do as good a job as we ought to keeping those records," said a spokesman. "It is just too old."

*'As far as I know, it never was a town. But I do know once it used to be a good bit more than it is now. Now, everybody asks you where you live, you say Constitution and they don't know what you're talking about.'*  
— Mary Nelson.

Nowadays, a water treatment plant and the Atlanta Police Academy occupy the old site of Cobb's Mill. Back down Fayetteville Road toward the railroad tracks, 300 acres of rolling pasture make up the old prison work farm, an adjunct to the Atlanta Corrections Center.

The work farm was established in 1925, and for many years operated as a dairy farm that supplied milk

to Grady Hospital, according to Frances Clark, an administrative assistant in the Bureau of Corrections.

"Over the years the farm was the major work activity for city prisoners. Those were the days before corrections became the official term, the days when you warehoused people and they worked off their sentences," she said.

During the prison farm's heyday from about 1930 to 1950, as many as 1,000 prisoners were housed at the farm. "All kinds of row crops and livestock were raised. It was a pretty big operation," said Ms. Clark.

Not surprisingly, no one seems sure what the relationship of the little pocket community of Constitution was to the work farm. It seems probable that many of the prison guards and staff members lived around the farm, as was a custom in many prison communities in those days.

Francis Hendrix, who lives across from the Woodcocks on Woodstock Road, remembers when her father worked as a guard at the prison. Hers was one of the first three houses in the community, she says.

"It used to be that all the families around knew each other. Quite a few of them were connected with the farm one way or another," she said. "It's really an old community."

The prison farm operation has dwindled to a mere shadow of its former self now. Only beef cattle roam the pastures, waiting to be slaughtered to provide meat for city prisoners. Of the 100-200 prisoners at the farm at any given time, only a handful work the farm.

The prison farm also serves as a resting home for Atlanta Police Department horses. According to Ms. Clark, the horses' legs and hooves need a respite from the daily pounding they get on downtown streets.

For R.L. Clark, who lives in a small mobile home behind the farm, the setting is perfect. "It's really like being way out in the country," he said.

Clark doesn't look much like a preacher as he tends his half acre garden and looks out over the serene prison pastures.

But every Sunday for the past year he has walked down to the American Legion Hall-turned church to deliver services at the Ambassadors for Christ Tabernacle.

Clark is like many of the newer residents of Constitution — he looks as if he's lived there comfortably all his life.

The forgotten community that one must know about to recognize may never amount to much, but it has in many ways successfully sidestepped the passage of time.

In present-day DeKalb, that is quite an achievement.



# You May Live in Constitution and Not Know It

The official Georgia high map takes a person to interesting places within the state. A visit with the map-making department is just as interesting.

A visitor to the mapping and graphics branch, Department of Transportation, gets a humanized introduction to state and county maps. For instance:

I never knew that the incorporated area of Chattahoochee Plantation must surely be the longest and skinniest town in Georgia. It measures 10 feet wide and about 30 miles long, along the Cobb County side of the Chattahoochee River from Fulton to Douglas counties.

And when I came back home and read up on this elongated real estate I discovered that Cobb County legislators extended the area's length so that Atlanta could not ex-

pand into that county, one city, crossing the boundaries of another city.

On a DeKalb County map I see the town of Constitution at the intersection of Clifton Road and U.S. 23, established in 1912. But Constitution doesn't extend its other half into Atlanta because the 1912 Atlanta City charter said any act conflicting with it would be null and void. So what we've got — at least what DeKalb County has got on its official map — is half of a dead city, legally alive, physically engulfed and recognized nowhere but on a map, its charter never revoked and consequently forever carried on the official DeKalb County map.

Some readers this morning might live in Constitution and not know it!

S. J. Kasmerski, chief of cartography, and Mary Shaw, senior cartographer, did their best to explain to me about little towns

going and coming on the official highway map.

In recent years such towns to be added to the highway map were Rayle, Varnell, Lookout Mountain, Dasher, Ephesus, Shiloh and Peachtree City.

Mr. Kasmerski says that it is his duty to carry a town on a map, especially those detailed county maps, until its charter is revoked. That seldom happens. Consequently, there are such towns in Georgia as Willie (Liberty County) now in Fort Stewart; Petersburg (Elbert County) now under Clark Hill Reservoir; Cement (Bartow County) and Hardwicke (Bryan County) that are "on the books" but have no people.

Miss Shaw said it was entirely possible — she thought — for a person to move to any of these incorporated but inactive towns, and stir up an election and become mayor.

Of course a Petersburg election would be difficult.

If a reader ever comes across a map of Georgia with the town of Jug Tavern pinpointed, save it. You have an antique. Jug Tavern was incorporated in 1884. In 1893 Jug Tavern was reincorporated and named Winder. And it seems logical that before Stone Mountain was renamed it was incorporated as New Gibraltar.

So what is behind the maps of Georgia and her counties are interesting facts, not to mention names like Drag Nasty Creek or Boggy Gut Creek. The late George Erickson in the mapping department was a great Drag Nasty Creek fan and his fellow workers included Drag Nasty on the official map as an unofficial memorial to him.

A map is the ultimate in factual information but few can illustrate the human side of the people who prepare them.

P. 8-A - Atl. Constitution, Wed. Jan 31, 1973



## Dateline Georgia

By ROB HARRELL

Cola TED'S CONSTITUTION GRO Coca-Cola



# Constitution: DeKalb's Lost Hamlet

## Enigmatic Town Has Its Own Character

By SCOTT THURSTON  
Reporter, DeKalb EXTRA

Mary Nelson begins every weekday by getting up at 6 a.m. to make about 80 "fresh, homemade" sandwiches.

Most days, all the sandwiches are gone by early afternoon, eaten by neighbors and laborers who know Ted's Constitution Grocery as a good place to buy lunch.

It is a small piece of fame for Mrs. Nelson, who runs the store and lives in the small house that comprises its rear.

"People come from a right smart ways away to get 'em," she says.

But for Mrs. Nelson and the handful of other people who live in the tiny, forgotten south DeKalb community

of Constitution, small bits of recognition are all they need.

Constitution, Ga., one must understand, doesn't exactly fit into the image of Dynamic DeKalb.

It isn't growing by leaps and bounds, no one has made it a "target area" for revitalization by outsiders and its people are generally neither young nor affluent.

Yet, Constitution exists — though barely — in the southwest corner of DeKalb, surrounded by an industrial boomtown, an old prison farm and just five miles from the nearest downtown skyscraper.

Distances, however, are illusive in Constitution.

Continued on Page 4

Constitution doesn't exactly fit the Dynamic DeKalb image: It isn't growing by leaps and bounds, no one has made it a revitalization 'target area' and its people are generally neither young nor affluent. Yet, for people like Mary Nelson and her 100-year-old mother, the community is just fine the way it is. (Photo — Nona Boyd)



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THE INTEREST OF DEKALB COUNTY.

OFFICIAL ORGAN.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1911.

NUMBER 50

## INFINITE DEMAND— SMALL TOWN WITH AN IDEAL

The American City" Which Tells of De-  
Advantages as a Residence Town—Ar-  
ticle by Chas. D. McKinney, Presi-  
dent of Trade, and Was Illustrated.

endid article concerning Decatur appeared in the  
"The American City," a magazine published in  
devotes itself to municipal problems and move-  
ment. The article was written by Mr. Chas. D.  
of the Decatur Board of Trade, and was illustrated  
the court house, public school building and one  
rves how extensively the advantages of Decatur as a  
ng advertised:

order to make the most of his life, should have  
an ideal, the realization of which is the goal of his  
Have, every town or city should have an ideal, to-  
f which its citizens should constantly strive. De-  
ars had an ideal, and the efforts of its citizens to  
ing a great deal of attention among those interest-  
of this section.

is the county seat of DeKalb county, one of the  
ties of Georgia, and through many of its citizens  
erests, both mercantile and manufacturing, in At-  
of Fulton and DeKalb counties, these men have  
Decatur pre-eminently a business center, but have  
make it an ideal residence town. Today the lead-  
are putting forth all their energies, not toward  
manufacturing plants or other commercial enter-  
rily toward making the town an ideal place for  
town for that reason.

gave Decatur a population of 2,466, an increase of  
of 1900. The taxable values of Decatur have nearly  
on-dollar mark; and the actual values are probably  
unt. Though it is hardly more than a village in  
demanding the same material comforts that they  
in the city of Atlanta, where a majority of them  
ss. In response to this demand from the taxpayers  
have, during the last four or five years, laid nine  
ten miles of sewers, nine and a quarter miles of  
ve miles of macadam streets, while a private corpo-  
rn with electric lights. During the same period,  
school building has been erected, and as an illus-  
town of the community, the Board of Education is  
problem of providing another school building in an  
n. The Georgia Railroad and two street car lines  
cellent transport facilities, and the increasingly  
mobile owners in all the suburban sections are de-  
that the three highways between Decatur and At-  
late in every particular. Plans are now under way  
y been begun on these three highways. Equally im-  
for a supply of gas for cooking and illuminating  
in closest touch with the material development of  
believe that in a very short time gas will be pro-  
of Decatur.

of space of five or six years Decatur has been trans-  
dition of a mere country village to that of a thor-  
than town. Electric lights, a pure water supply, a  
dern streets, street car facilities, and an up-to-date  
have all come in response to the demands of its  
must be made an ideal residence town.

d town, much older than the city of Atlanta, and  
the people of the town have cherished this same  
a of waterworks, sewerage, electric lights and mod-  
alks, the residents placed special emphasis upon the  
hes and schools. As a result, Donald Fraser, High  
Agnes Scott College for girls were founded more than  
Hundred of our best citizens have come to Decatur  
base their institutions.

**PRAISES MAYOR MONTGOMERY  
Constitution Compliments Work of  
Man Who Has Been Elected  
For Tenth Term as Mayor.**

The following is from The Atlan-  
ta Constitution of last Sunday:

"For the tenth successive time  
John A. Montgomery, one of the  
most prominent citizens of DeKalb  
county, was elected mayor of Deca-  
tur last Wednesday. Mr. Mont-  
gomery's election was unanimous—  
for there is no one who will venture  
to run against him.

In the same election, J. C.  
Stephenson defeated J. B. Davis for  
council from the first ward; T. C.  
Mason was elected from the second  
ward over R. P. Shappard, and  
John F. Green was victor in the  
third ward, defeating E. T. Bowen.  
The several contests were full of  
spirit and interest.

"The close of the decade of May-  
or Montgomery's administration  
shows a period of the most wonder-  
ful progress and development, in  
which Decatur, a country town near  
Atlanta, has grown to the impor-  
tance of a city where the internal  
development is not surpassed any-  
where. Ten years ago the popula-  
tion was only 1,400—today it is  
3,400, and nearly every one of them  
home owners.

"The taxable value of property  
has grown from \$200,000 to \$2,000,  
000, with the erection of handsome  
residences, business buildings and  
enterprises of various character.  
The growth of the city has neces-  
sitated civic development, and there  
are now nine miles of water mains,  
10 of sewers, 5 miles of well-paved  
streets, 8 miles of sidewalks and  
curbing. In the schools the attend-  
ance has grown to 425 from 75 and  
one new building has been erected.  
Others are contemplated with the  
money secured from bonds which  
may be issued shortly.

"Decatur people are proud of  
their city. They are proud of its  
growth in the last ten years. And  
last, but not least, they are proud  
of Mayor Montgomery, and plan to  
keep him for another ten years at  
least."

### Schools to Close for Holidays.

Agnes Scott college and Donald  
Fraser will close for the Christmas  
holidays on Friday, Dec. 22.

The Decatur public schools will  
close next Friday, Dec. 15, and will  
open again Jan. 2, 1912.

**PEOPLE OBJECT  
TO CEMETERY**

Citizens Who Live in Vicinity of Con-  
stitution Object to Negro Com-  
mercial Cemetery Being Lo-  
cated at That Place.

The Chestnut Hill Cemetery As-  
sociation has been temporarily re-  
strained from interfering any bodies  
in Chestnut Hill cemetery, the in-  
junction being filed by Charles S.  
Reed, solicitor general of the Stone  
Mountain circuit, who was acting  
for the state. Judge Pendleton is-  
sued the order and set the case for  
December 16.

The citizens of the neighborhood  
in which the cemetery is located ob-  
jected strongly to it and the petition  
states that the county authorities of  
DeKalb county were not consulted  
before putting the cemetery in op-  
eration. Under the new state law  
any firm or corporation expecting to  
use ground for the purpose of a com-  
mercial cemetery, if that ground is  
outside the corporate limits of a  
city, must first secure permission of  
the county officials.

The cemetery is located at Con-  
stitution, on the Southern railroad  
in DeKalb county, and as it is a  
commercial cemetery for negroes,  
practically all of the citizens who  
live in that section of the county  
strenuously object to it being lo-  
cated there.

Most of the bodies interred there,  
it is claimed, would be from Atlan-  
ta and Fulton county, and the prop-  
erty owners say that values would  
depreciate because of the fact that  
the location of the cemetery at Con-  
stitution would make that section  
undesirable for white residents.

The indications are that the ne-  
gro cemetery association has a very  
hard fight ahead for the people in  
that part of the county propose to  
use every method which the law al-  
lows to prevent interments there.

DeKalb Co