United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received/UL 3 0 1979
date entered SEP 2 19

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

Type all entries	s—complete a	pplicable se	ctions			
1. Nam	1e					
historic	]	Ourazno E	lantat	ion		
and/or common						
2. Loca	ation	5 01	gene	Creek	aff TX 36	
street & number				Highway	36 at end of	not for publication
city, town Jor	nes Creek	nic.		vicinity of	congressional district	22
state Tex	xas	code	£048	county	Brazoria	code 039
3. Clas	sificat	ion				
Category district _X building(s) structure _X site object	Ownership public _X private both Public Acq in proce being co	ss	Accessi yes:	ccupied k in progress	Present Use  X agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Owr	ner of F	roper	AND DESCRIPTION			
-				roft, Jr.		
name						
street & number	Rosemo	nt Planta	ation			
city, town	Woodvi			vicinity of		Mississippi 39669
5. Loca	ation o	t Lega	I De	scripti	on	
courthouse, regi	istry of deeds,	etc. I	Brazori	ia County	Courthouse	
street & number						
city, town		I	ingleto	on	state	Texas
Name and Address of the Owner, where the Owner, which is	resent				Surveys	
title Histor	ic Sites	inventory	?	has this pro		legible? yes _Xno
date 1976					federalX sta	ate county loca
depository for s	urvey records	Texas H	istorio	cal Commi	ssion	
city town Alle	tin				etato	Texas

# 7. Description

Condition excellentX good	deteriorated	Check one unaltered X altered	Check one X original site moved date
fair	unexposed		

#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Brazoria County was one of the first in Texas to be systematically settled by Anglos. During the 1830's, its fertile level land and semitropical climate allowed an agricultural lifestyle comparable to the one prevalent in the older Southern states, from where its first residents hailed. Although agribusiness and oil refining have changed the landscape, the vegetational and topographic setting of Durazno Plantation is strongly reminiscent of its ante-bellum heyday.

Durazno Plantation was first settled during the late 1840's. At that time, it consisted of several simple buildings serving residential and farm functions. Much of the original complex has been demolished over the years; other elements remain either intact or as inocrporated into the later house. Two structures known to have been connected by the later construction are a plantation office and the detached kitchen. Built in a style typical of early colonies, the office was a one story structure with three fireplaces, wood shingle roof, and a six-bay inset porch. Investigation during the repair of the present kitchen revealed that the original was of logs. Another log building, used for living space, was located east of the office near the cistern. An old photo indicates it was covered by weatherboards and boards-and-battens, and was pierced by 6/6 windows. This house has been removed. Still remaining from the ante-bellum period unaltered is a brick gatepost, once half of a pair, and a brick cistern. A log carriage house, later used as a smoke house, still stands on the property as a storage shed, but was covered with weather boards early in this century. The log construction is clearly visible on the interior. Once a prominent feature, but now evident only from brick chimney ruins, was a string of approximatley 12 slave cabins. The last surviving cabin was described as a one room structure built around 4 live oaks or bois d'arc timbers sunk in the ground and with framing placed around them. A door and window faced south, another door pierced the north wall. A fireplace occupied the west wall. The room measured approximatley 10'x10' and the floor was about 12" off the ground. It burned in 1959, shortly after its restoration.

The main house dates from 1909. Extant structures formed the base for what became a typical early twentieth century farmhouse. It is a one story frame house, covered with clapboards and painted white. The hip roof is covered with asbestos shingles. The main entrance, facing south toward the gate, was moved to the north facade. The former entrance porch was enclosed with screening. What had been a porch at the rear of the house was completely enclosed to form a hall. Its brick floor attests to its earlier function. A four bay porch extends from there.

Many other features express the almost organic evolution the Durazno house has undergone. Most of the windows are 2/2 double hung sash, except for the 6/6 and one small casement in the kitchen, which are the only visible reminders of the old log kitchen hidden in the walls. On the east facade, metal casements delineate another recent porch enclosure. Door sizes vary,

arish 1 1 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED. SEP, 2 1980

**CONTINUATION SHEET** 

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

including an exceptionally wide back door that dates from the plantation office building, and a typical Victorian pocket door. The interior plan also is highly irregular, but forms a comfortable and liveable space.

Many associated structures besides the aforementioned log shed, cistern, and gatepost occupy the nominated property. Just north of the house is a rusted syrup kettle, possibly left from the sugar processing period. To the northeast are 3 small nondescript barn outbuildings constructed in the twentieth century. Another frame shed lies approximately 150' southwest of the house. To its north is a frame playhouse, built in the same moderate late Victorian style as parts of the main building. A Carpenter Gothic church completes the group. Also white frame, it features pointed arch windows and a separately roofed entryway. Built in about 1900 ain nearby Perry's Landing, the Second Presbyterian Church was moved onto the Durazno property during the 1940's. Although an unusual addition to the farmstead, the church building appears natural in its setting, since the materials and scale are comparable to the house. It is used for storage.

The final elements contributing to the Durazno property's significance is a slave cemetery, located approximately 225 meters northwest of the house. Buried there are members of the Hobbs, Edwards, and Hardaman families, all of whom served the Bryans. Descendants of the slaves have pointed out the unmarked site. Reconnaissance by a professional archeologist indicated they are correct. Judging from ground cover, rodent activity, and other clues, an estimate of 1000 square meters can be made for the site's extent. It is further threatened by additional pipelines, which already cross the cemetery.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—C	heck and justify below		
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric X_ archeology-historic	community planning conservation	landscape architecture law	religion science
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600-1699	x_ architecture	education	military	social/
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
X 1800-1899	commerce	_X_ exploration/settlement	philosophy	theater
_x_1900-	communications	industry		transportation
tan b.		invention	ment min -	other (specify)

Specific dates 1828, 1840's, 1909 Builder/Architect William Joel Bryan

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Durazno Plantation was one of the earliest and most important plantations of the state's colonial period. It was the place Stephen F. Austin, the "Father of Texas," dreamed of taking his fiance, diarist Mary Austin Holley, to settle, and was developed by Austin's nephew, William Joel Bryan. He and many other members of the Bryan family, raised at or associated with Durazno, went on to contribute their talents in various fileds. Although the home no longer appears as the original, the farmstead's good state of preservation offers unique opportunities for further archeological and architectural investigation.

The plantation was part of a 7 1/3 league grant of land to Stephen F. Austin from Mexico dated May 31, 1828. He intended to deed 200 acres of the Durazno tract, next to the more developed Peach Point settlement, to his cousin Mary. She identified it in her diary of 1835-38 as the "paradise on earth" where she and Stephen would build their home after their marriage. His untimely death in 1836 crushed that dream. The property's first appearance by name ("Durazno" means "peach" in Spanish) in legal documents dates from 1847 in a deed from Emily M. Perry (Austin's sister) to her son William Joel Bryan.

Bryan was born in 1815 in Missouri and moved to Texas in 1831, settling in Brazoria County in 1832 as a farmer. In 1835 he served in the Brazoria County volunteers in the Texas Army and was with his famous uncle during the siege of Bexar. He traveled with Sam Houston in the army's retreat across Texas but was ill at the time of the battle of San Jacinto. 1840 Bryan married Lavinia Perry and settled at Durazno Plantation. developed it as a thriving cotton and cattle center. Sugar processing was a major industry in the area at the time, and Durazno also profited from that crop. Durazno was dubbed the "Hub" by newspaperman Oscar Nation to denote its position in the county. The Bryans were the parents of seven children, four of whom served in the Confederate Army. At his own expense, Bryan fed the Confederate troops stationed at the mouth of the Brazos. 1865 he granted the Houston and Texas Central Railroad a right-of-way through his land in Brazos County, and the townsite which was projected was named in He later gave the town of Bryan financial assistance and helped establish its bank. One of his dreams was the development of a deep-water port at the mouth of the Brazos. He was an active member of the Texas Veterans Association until his death in 1903. Descendants remember him as a crusty humorous gambler, like many early plantation owners. residence at Durazno, he was the acknowledged leader of the large Austin/ Bryan/Perry clan.

William Joel Bryan's brothers shared his prominence. Guy Morrison Bryan was an ambitious politician, serving in the Texas Legislature, U.S.

**Major Bibliographical References** Handbook of Texas, Texas State Historical Association, 1952. J.P. Bryan, "The Texas Diary of Mary Austin Holley, 1835-38", Texas Quarterly, vol. VIII, p. 108. Deed Records of Brazoria County. **Geographical Data** Acreage of nominated property approx. 129 Quadrangle scale 1: 24000 Quadrangle name Jones Creek **UMT References** 115 2 61 5105 · C | 115 | 2 | 6 1 1 1 1 3 5 | 312 0 14 9 14 10 26,08,8,9 3,20,5 72,0 Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is enclosed by a polygon as drawn on the attached USGS quandrangle map. The polygon ABCD contains all known historic and archeological resources and encourages maintenance of a proper context. List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries state code county code state code county code **Form Prepared By** name/title Lissa Anderson, Coordinator of Nominations organization date July 17, 1979 Texas Historical Commission street & number P.O. Box 12276 telephone 512-475-3094 Texas 78711 city or town Austin state **State Historic Preservation Officer Certification** The evaluated significance of this property within the state is: national X state local As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1,866 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Register. State Historic Preservation Officer signature State Historic Preservation Officer date July 18, 1979 title For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register Keeper of the National Register Attest: Sett Grandense Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** 

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Congress, and as Texas' representative at the Trans-Mississippi Head-quarters in Marshall. Moses Austin Bryan followed a military and clerical career, accompanying Stephen F. Austin as secretary to Saltillo, Mexico and interpreting for the post-battle conference between Sam Houston and Santa Anna, besides performing less exotic battle duties. Evidently, the older brother's remaining on the family farm and maintaining the agricultural base allowed him to keep his title of clan leader in contrast to his brothers more spectacular accomplishments. The three were close companions, and presumably spent many good times together at Durazno.

The plantation remained in the Bryan family until 1928. During that period, it underwent various alterations and additions, the most extensive being the transformation of the main buildings into a twentieth century farmhouse. R.E.L. Stringfellow owned the property until the 1940's; his wife continued ownership until the early 1970's, when it passed to Mrs. Stringfellow's nephew Percival Beacroft Jr. Mr. Beacroft's mother Pollye lives at Durazno and maintains the property well.

Although the site no longer appears as an ante-bellum plantation, the amount of historic fabric remaining intact is considerable. The original office building and kitchen wing are still contained within the present house, and offer additional architectural research opportunities. The absence of intrusive new construction makes the entire house environs available for archeological investigation to determine the location and nature of outbuildings, slave cabins, and the slave cemetery. The archeological record will add depth and detail to a reconstruction of plantation life on the Texas Gulf Coast.

FHR-8-300A (11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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SEP 2 1980

**CONTINUATION SHEET** 

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Unpublished monograph by Hallie Bryan Perry, on file at THC.
Unpublished monograph by Percival Beacroft, Jr., on file at THC.
Interviews between Mr. Beacroft and J.P. Bryan, Mrs. R.E.L. Stringfellow,
Mr. Stephen S. Perry, Van Randon, Obie Hobbs, Rogers Rossaw.
Various dates.

Interviews between Lissa Anderson and Pollye Beacroft (March 16, 1979) and Percival Beacroft, Jr. (July 17, 1979).

FHR-8-300A (11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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Durazno Plantation CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

1

10

Boundary justification:

Inclusion of a large amount of property in the nominated land is advisable primarily because the extent of historic archeological remains is not known. As indicated on the site plan, the edges of the slave cemetery and slave cabins ruins area are not exactly determined. Remains of slave cabins are believed to extend to the eastern limits of the Beacroft property, and possibly beyond. is guite likely that additional artifacts will be found in other areas not yet investigated, due to the plantation's long and prominent history. Although an ostensibly arbitrary boundary, it encloses a maximum of potential sites that may contribute more archeological data. Allowance for a proper environmental context is also crucial for Durazno Plantation's maintenance of significance. Because of increased commercial activity in the general vicinity, the large acreage is recommended to help retain the present ambiance. All the property nominated was part of the original plantation.

Property Durgano Plantation	
State J. (Brazonia Working Number 7.30.79. 1805 TECHNICAL	80004081
TECHNICAL Photos 14 Maps 1+1+1	CONTROL DK 2. 33.79
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Call yo info se Hold shut. 9/26/79. Sketh map rec's 10/03. The state a bette VBD; only a justification of acreege and the arbitrary motion of t	Le boundaries. 10/31/79
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	h. Historian HAER
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National Register Write-up Send-back Send-back Re-submit	Entered <u>SEP 2 198</u> 0
Federal Register Entry 2.3.81 Re-submit	

United States Department of the Interior - Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

Property A DO 4 4:	
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State J. Brazona Working Number 7.30.79. 1805	80004081
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	OTHER
The major significance of this property is historical/archaeological; the Aor	h. Historian HAER
period when it achieved significance is 18 28 1705 according to the agorithment	Accept Inventory
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National Register Write-up Send-back Federal Register Entry 2.3.81 Re-submit	Entered SEP 2 1980

United States Department of the Interior - Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

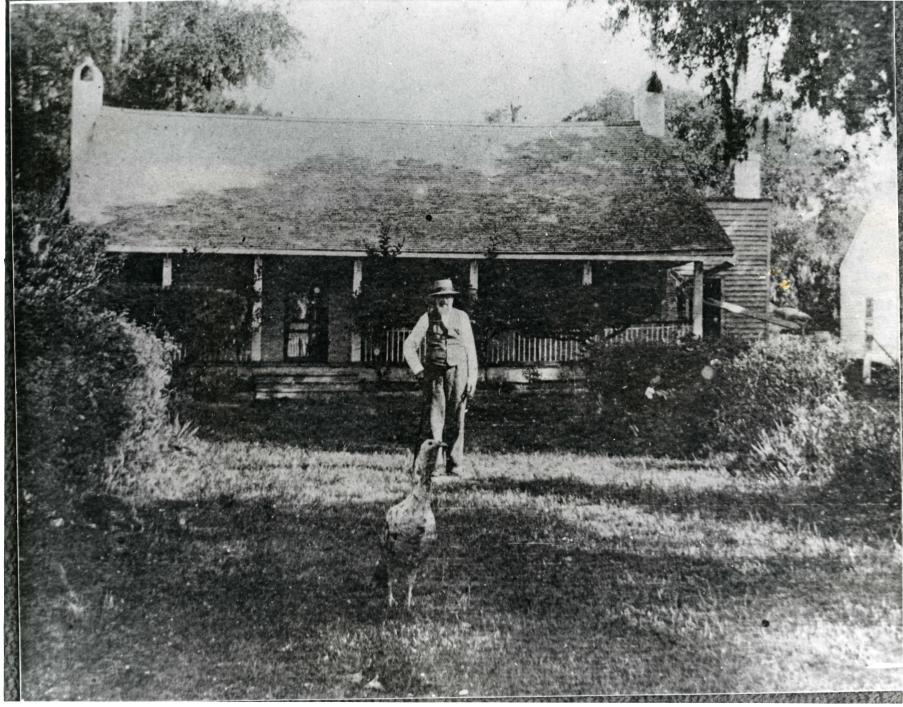


Photo courtesy of Pollye Beacroft, copied by Texas Historical Commission. Date unknown, probably approx. 1890.

South facade of plantation office, with William Joel Bryanaat center.

Photo #1/14

JUL 3 0 1979

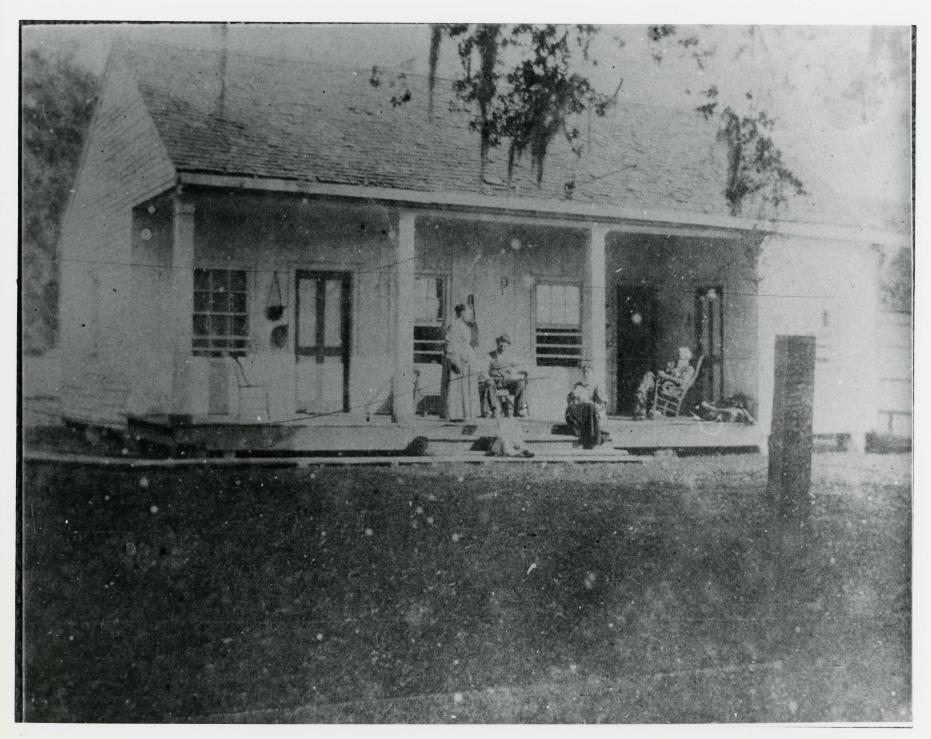


Photo courtesy of Pollye Beacroft, copied by Texas Historical Commission. Date unknown.

Log house covered with weatherboards and boards-and-battens. South facade.

Photo #2///

JUL 3 0 1979

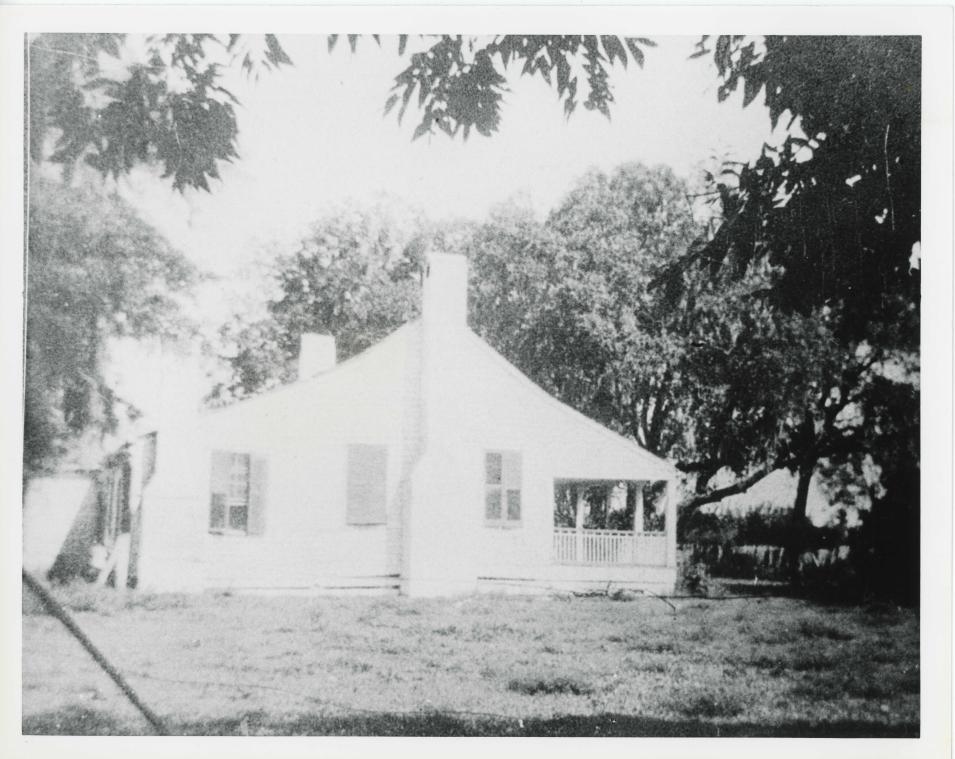


Photo courtesy of Pollye Beacroft, copied by Texas Historical Commission. Date unknown, pre-1909.

West facade of plantation office.

Photo #3/14

JUL 3 0 1979

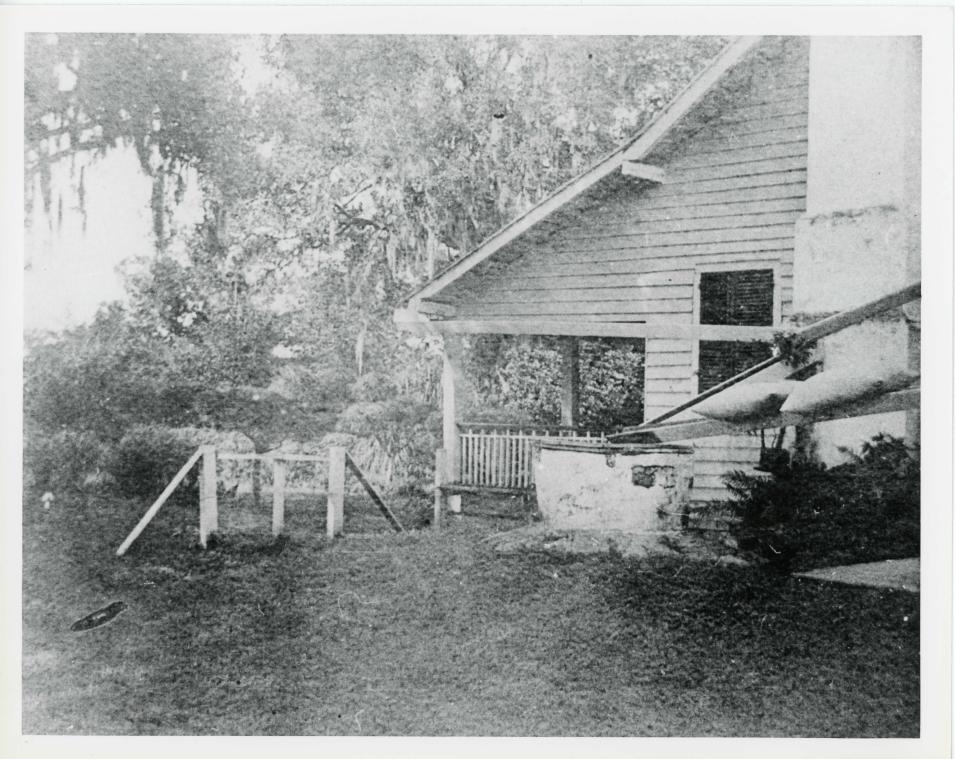


Photo courtesy of Pollye Beacroft, copied by Texas Historical Commission. Date unknown, pre-1909.

Southeast corner of plantation office.

Photo #4/1/ JUL 3 0 1979

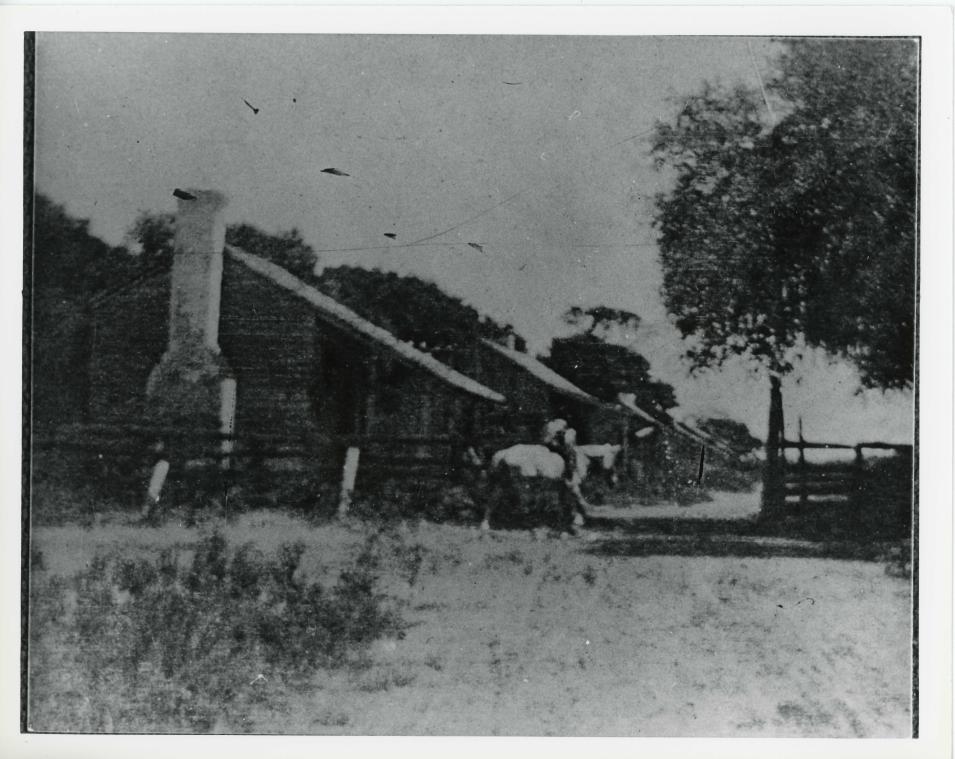


Photo courtesy of Pollye Beacroft, copied by Texas Historical Commission. Date unknown.

Slave cabins to east of main buildings.

Photo #5/14

JUL 3 0 1979



Photo courtesy of Pollye Beacroft, copied by Texas Historical Commission. Date unknown.

Gate to south of main buildings.

Photo #6/14

JUL 3 0 1979

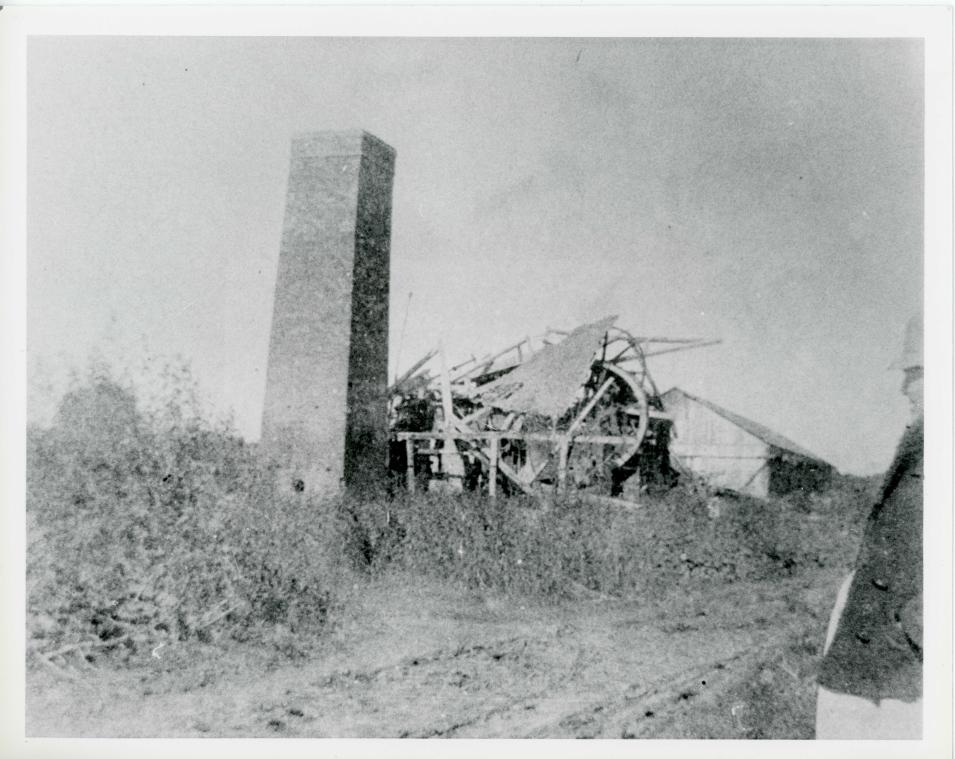


Photo courtesy of Pollye Beacroft, copied by Texas Historical Commission. Date unknown.

Sugar mill; exact location on property unknown.

Photo #7/19

111 3 0 1979



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Photo by Mike Yancey, Texas Historical Commission, 1976

North elevation of main house.

Photo #8/14

JUL 30 1979



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Photo by Mike Yancey, Texas Historical Commission, 1976

Northeast oblique, showing kitchen wing on left with casement.

Photo #9/14

JUL 3 0 1979



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Photo by Mike Yancey, Texas Historical Commission, 1976

Southeast oblique of main house, showing enclosed porch remaining from plantation office.

Photo #10/14

JUL 3 0 1979



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Photo by Mike Yancey, Texas Historical Commission, 1976

Southwest oblique of main house, showing early 20th c. additions.

Photo #11//4

JUL 3 0 1979



Photo by Mike Yancey, Texas Historical Commission, 1976

Second Presbyterian Church building, southeast oblique.

Photo #12/14

JUL 3 0 1979



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Photo by Mike Yancey, Texas Historical Commission, 1976

Remainder of brick gatepost to south of main house.

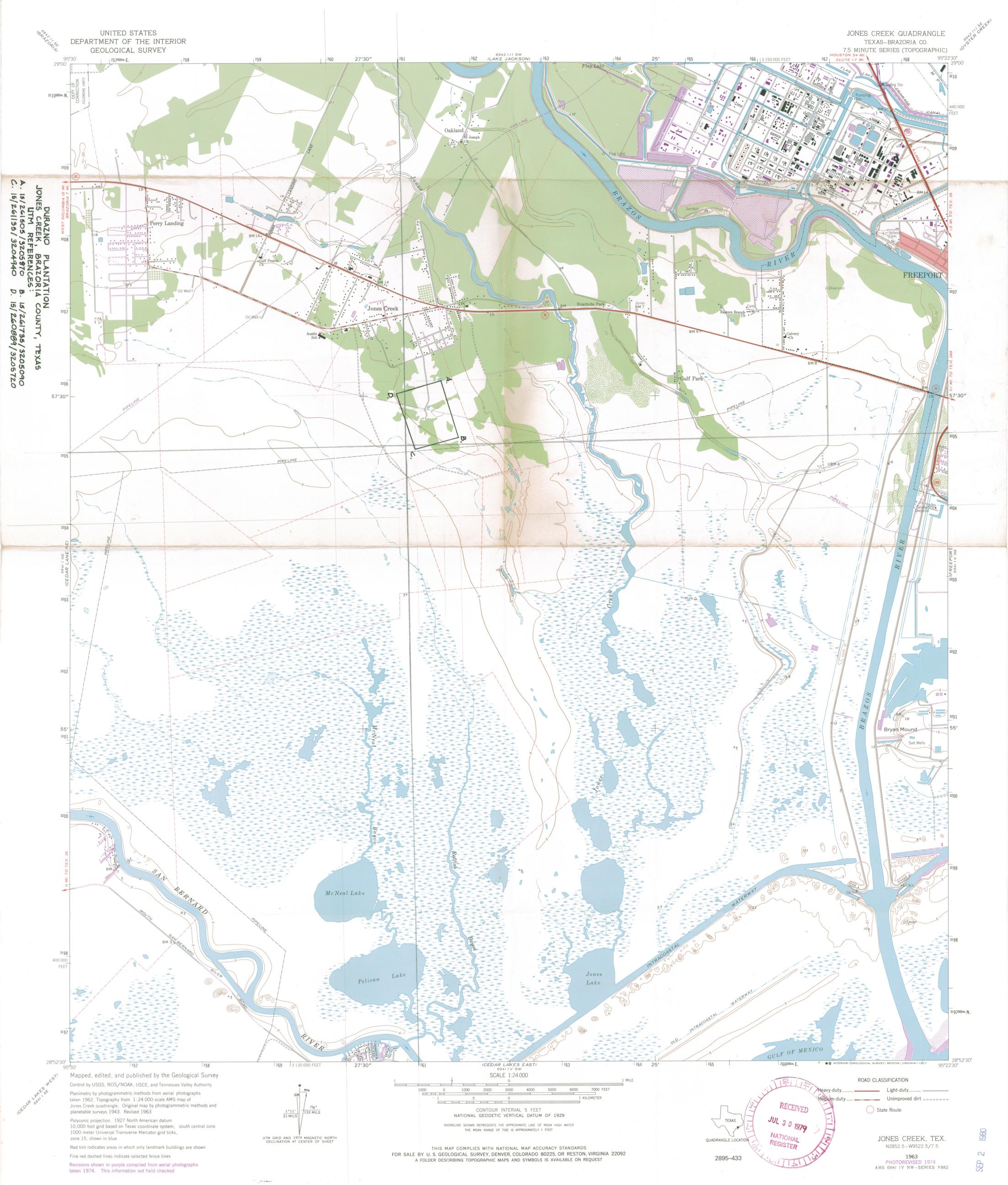
Photo #13/14 JUL 3 0 1979

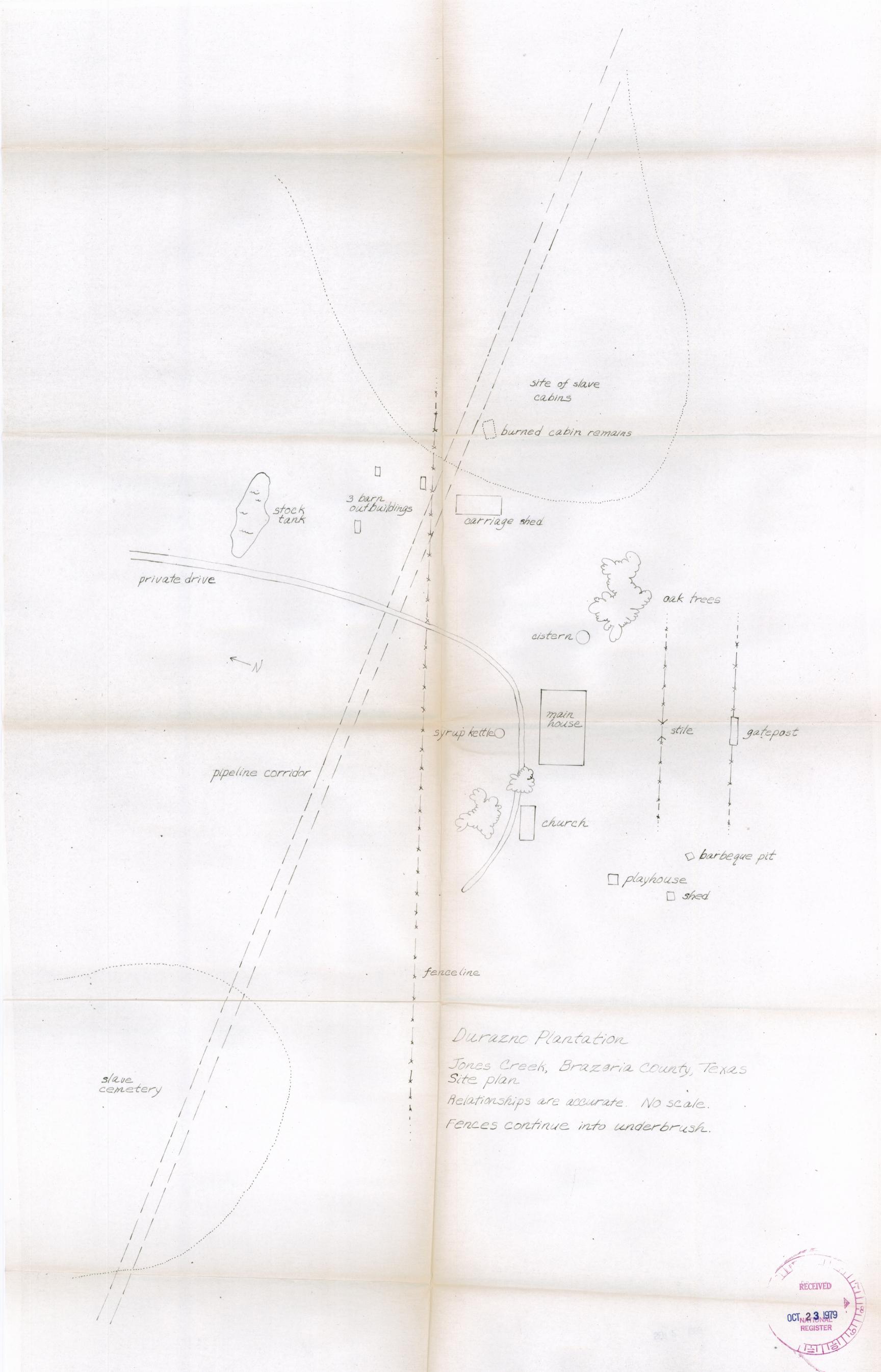


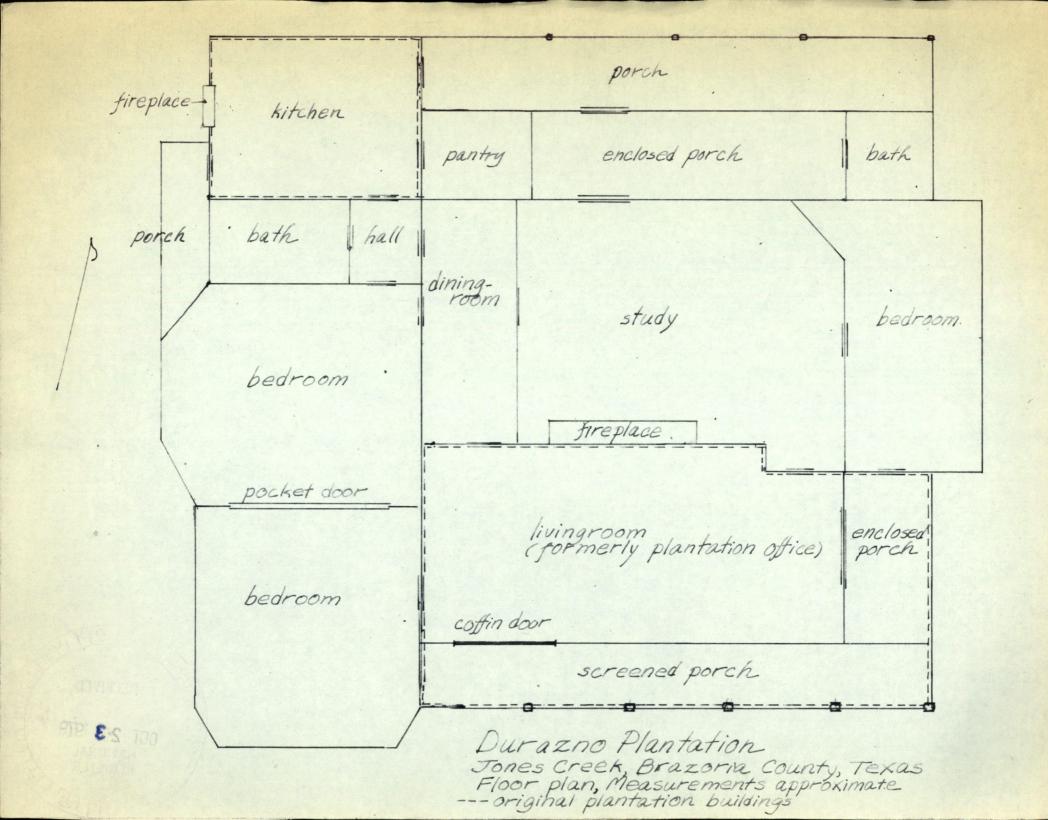
Photo by Mike Yancey, Texas Historical Commission, 1976

Interior of storage shed, showing formed log construction.

Photo #14/14 JUL 3 0 1979









NAME OF PROPERTY Duragno Plantation	STATE 7X
Date Information Requested/Date Put in "Hold" Drawer: _	9/56/19
Date to Be Pulled from "Hold" Drawer: 10/36/79  (30 Days from Date Requested)	
Information Requested From: Lisse Anderson	
Information Requested/Reason Nomination Is Being Held:	
Sketch mayor: 1) site polar s) house	

more specific VBD

Beth Growens

Reviewer



TRUETT LATIMER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

P. O. BOX 12276 AUSTIN TEXAS 78711

October 18, 1979

Dear Beth:

Enclosed is the additional material you requested for the Durazno Plantation nomination: site plan, floor plan, and boundary justification.

Please let me know if you need more information. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Lissa Anderson

Director of Survey and Nominations National Register Programs in Texas

Enclosure

Ms. Beth Grosvenor
National Register Review Staff
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Pension Building
440 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20243





#### ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered

SEP 2

1980

Name

Staacke Brothers Building

de la Pena, Silverio, Drugstore and Post Office

Durazno Plantation

Location

San Antonio Bexar County

Rio Grande City Starr County

Jones Creek Brazoria County

#### Also Notified

Honorable John G. Tower
Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
Honorable Henry B. Gonzalez
Honorable E. (Kika) de la Garza
Honorable Ronald E. Paul

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas State Historical
Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

MR BYERS/MSA 9/17/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

1909 house

Affice

Kitchen

gate posts

log house

carriage house

slave cabina (10)

bick cistern

1909 house w) office & kitchen

brick gateport

brick circless

log carriage house (smokehouse) = shed

chimneys from slave cabins

3 20x8 C. barns

frame shed

playhouse

church (c. 1900; moved to site, 1940's)

used for strage

slave semetery

### ALTERATIONS TO HOUSE

door charged, 5 -> N

entrance youch enclosed (now the rear)

Jonna rear youch enclosed as hall a porch added

colouble hung windows

E porch enclosure of metal casements

roof (formerly gabled) now hipped