

# HISTORIC MARKER SIGNAGE TEXT

## Reed/Barnes Antebellum Homesite

In 1830, all of the land in northwest Georgia, north of the Chattahoochee River (including this property), and which had been ceded to the State of Georgia was designated as Cherokee County. The land was surveyed and sectioned into 40-acre "gold lots" and distributed in Georgia's sixth and final Land Lottery (1832).

Daniel Reed, a pioneer settler of Cobb County acquired title to this 40-acre parcel (Land Lot 49 of the 17<sup>th</sup> District) for \$63 on February 11, 1839. He and later descendants established a farm and homestead on this site. The antebellum structures included a central hallway cottage with an interior stacked stone chimney, barns and outbuildings.

The stalemate on the Kennesaw Mountain front was broken when on July 1, 1864, Brigadier General Milo S. Hascall's (2<sup>nd</sup>) div., 23<sup>rd</sup> A.C. (Federal) extended south to this area. This maneuver threatened General Johnston's lines (Confederate) of communication and retreat toward the Chattahoochee River. On July 3, 1864, a column from the 4<sup>th</sup> Federal Corps was sent east to Ruff's Mill on Nickajack Creek and one south via Mableton toward the river crossings. Skirmishes occurred on this site as evidenced by fired ammunition found throughout the ridges to the north and southeast of the Reed Homesite.

By the early 1950's the property had changed hands several times and was purchased by J. Felton Barnes, a prominent citizen of the community, as part of a large assemblage. At this time, Barnes ran a general store in Mableton, while his brother William (father of Roy Barnes, former Governor of Georgia) ran a hardware store, both of which had belonged to their father, Henry. In January of 2005, this property was sold by the estate of Felton's wife, Lucy Barnes, for the development of the Barnes Mill Community. By the time of the sale, the house had fallen into a state of disrepair and could not be saved; however, the chimney that marks this site was constructed from the stones from the original Reed home.

**ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTATION OF  
THE REED HOUSE  
DONALD ROAD  
COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA**

Neil J. Bowen  
Historian and Contributing Author

Courtney Helfrecht  
Contributing Author

and

John Kannady  
Contributing Author

  
William R. Jordan  
Principal Investigator

**Prepared for:**  
**Barnes Mill Properties, LLC**  
Post Office Box 5074  
Marietta, Georgia 30061

**Prepared by:**  
**R.S. Webb & Associates**  
2800 Holly Springs Parkway  
P.O. Drawer 1319  
Holly Springs, Georgia 30142

R.S. Webb Project No. 04-065-063

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**ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTATION:  
THE REED HOUSE  
DONALD ROAD  
COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA**

**Introduction**

The Reed House is located at the terminus of the paved portion of Donald Road, in roughly the center of Land Lot 49 of the 17<sup>th</sup> District, 2<sup>nd</sup> Section, original Cherokee (now Cobb) County, Georgia (Figures 1 and 2). The Reed House is situated within a parcel tract of land that was for many years composed of portions of three Land Lots (all of Land Lot 48, 31 acres of Land Lot 49, and 5.5 acres of the southeast corner of Land Lot 24) and totaled 76.5 acres. The property is bounded on the east by the dirt road continuation of Donald Road, on the west by Hicks Road, and on the north and the south by adjacent properties.

The house has not been previously recorded by a Cobb County historic structures survey. The property where the Reed House is located, the Barnes Mill at Covered Bridge development tract, is slated for subdivision development. Implementation of this plan would result in demolition of the Reed House. As a result, the Cobb County Community Development Agency determined that the Reed House should be documented prior to demolition. The resulting documentation of the Reed House is presented in this document.

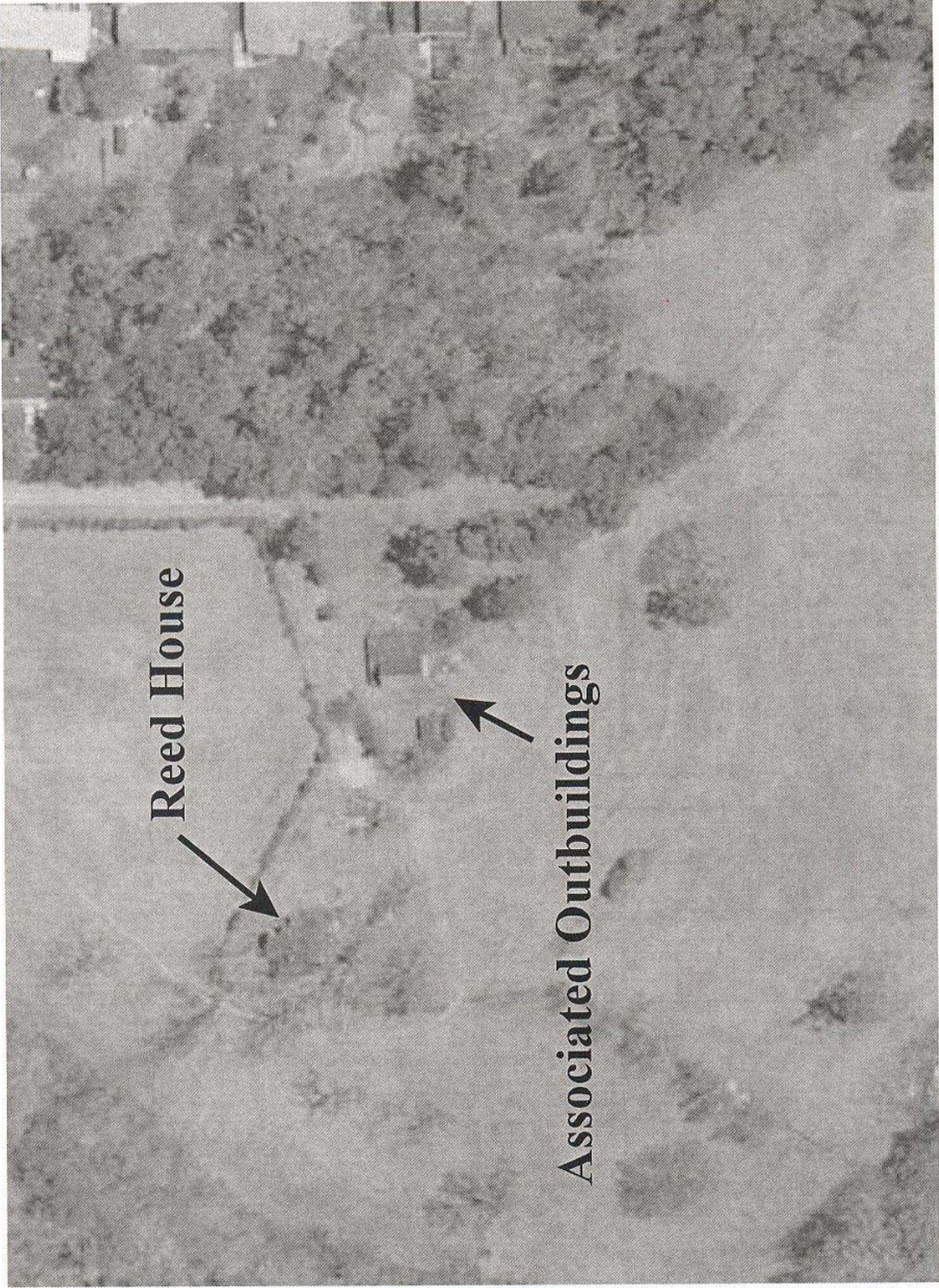
**Property Description**

Existing structures on the Reed House property include the main house, which is an antebellum central hallway cottage, and two outbuildings (Figure 3). Surrounding the house complex are former agricultural fields and several pecan trees. Olley Creek is situated approximately 120 feet west of the structure. Dirt driveways and paths provide access to the house and the property. The setting of the house has historically been rural/agricultural, but the surrounding area is in transition to suburban residential development. A circa 1960s subdivision is east of the house.

The Reed House is balloon-framed with a hipped roof and pressed seam metal roofing. The structure has a rear ell and a small side addition. The house has an interior stacked stone chimney situated at the juncture of the main body of the house and the rear ell. There is a second, smaller brick chimney located towards the end of the rear ell (in the kitchen). This resource has an unpainted weatherboard exterior, a shed-roofed full front porch, and an L-shaped rear porch with a shed roof. All of the original windows no longer exist; there is one 4/4 window remaining (no glass). The windows in place appear to have been 1/1 but, due to the advanced state of dilapidation, it is not known if all or only part of the frame is in place. None of the windows have glass remaining. The house rests on a stacked stone foundation with much of the exterior now hosting brick infill. There is a well situated beneath the rear porch; it appears as though the well has been filled with dirt and debris. The house is situated on the edge of a rise above Olley Creek. As the landform drops towards the creek, the structure hosts a large crawlspace below and there is a fireplace situated at the base of the stacked stone chimney. There are multiple access points to the crawlspace and several window openings. Dogwood trees are situated at either end of the front porch and several pecan trees dot the landscape to the southwest and west of the structure.

Alterations to the exterior are minimal and include the addition of a small room on the north elevation and extensive foundation repairs; much of the original stacked stone of the exterior foundation has been replaced/repared with brick infill. Additionally, several of the windows have pieces of weatherboard installed at the top in order to reduce the size of the frame. The rear porch appears to have been partially





**Reed House**

**Associated Outbuildings**

Figure 2 2002 Aerial Photograph Showing the Reed House

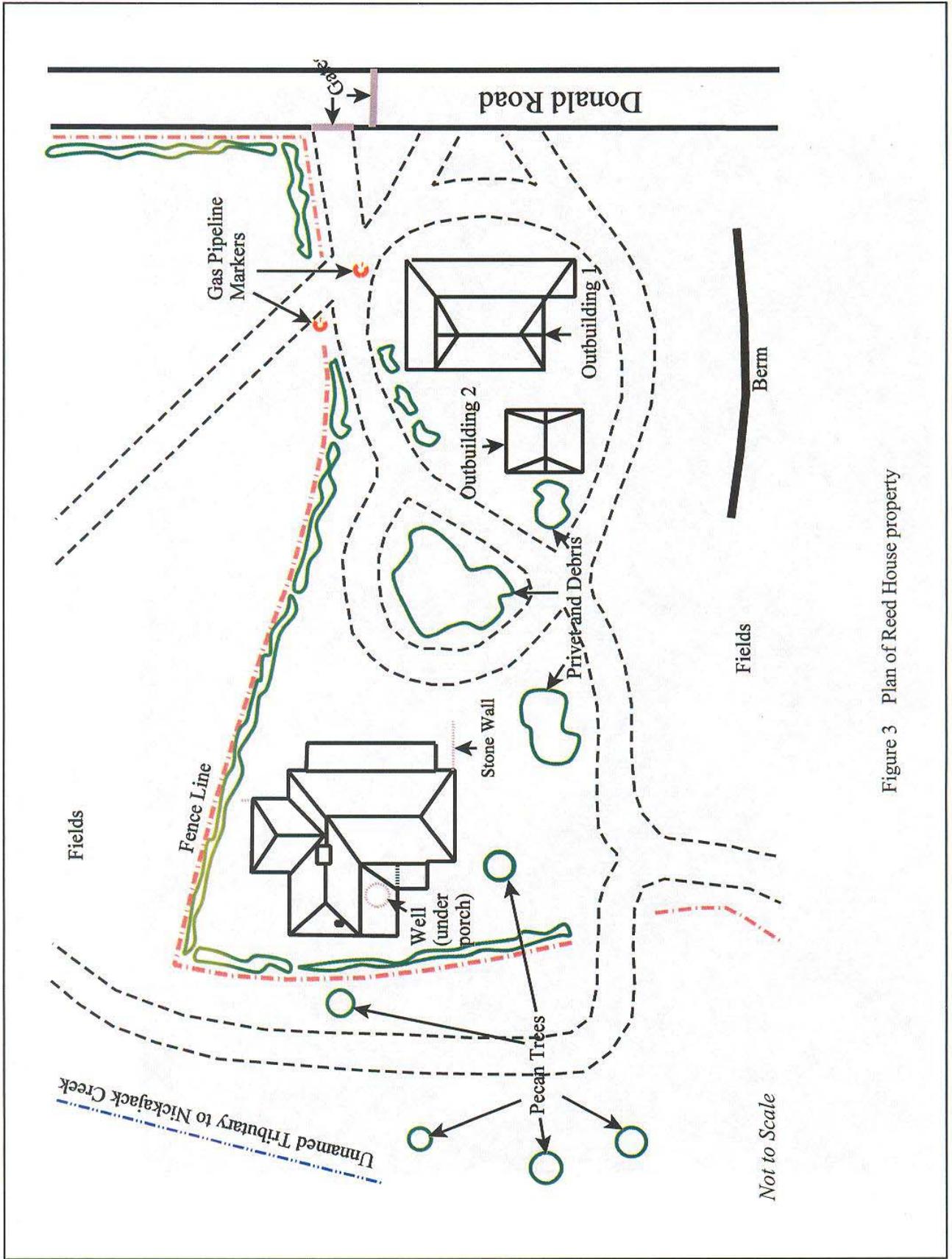


Figure 3 Plan of Reed House property

enclosed. The entire house is in an advanced state of dilapidation, with both porches, many of the interior floors, and portions of the roof rotted in several places. The interior could not be visited in its entirety due to the dilapidation; however, there did not appear to have been much modification besides the addition of electricity and a telephone line.

There are two outbuildings situated on the property, both of which appeared to have had multiple uses including storage and livestock housing. While there is much debris located around the house, there does not appear to have been any additional buildings in the vicinity.

Entrance to the property can be gained from Donald Road (east of the house). The paved terminus of Donald Road is gated, and there is an additional gate on the west side of the road. There are multiple access dirt/grass roads running from Donald Road towards the property, including one on the north side of the gate at the end of Donald Road and two on the south side. All meet and form a figure eight, with the top loop wrapping around the two outbuildings situated east of the structure and the bottom loop situated in front of the residence. There are two additional roads which branch off this figure eight and extend into the adjacent fields located north, south, and west of the structure. The fields, formerly agricultural, are now covered in briars, privet, and grass. There is an unusual berm extending east-west located in the field on the south side of the access road; its actual length was indeterminate due to the extensive overgrowth and disturbance in the area. The 1942 aerial photograph indicates that it may have originally been the side of an access road to the structure (Figure 5). The road extending to the south fields splits as it reaches the fenceline and winds south into the fields and west towards Olley Creek. It then turns north to parallel the creek, turns east through the northern fields, and then winds southeast to meet up with the roads fronting the house. Due to the extensive grass cover it is difficult to discern which access roads are the result of recent use and which are historic.

### **Property History**

In 1830, all of the land in the northwest corner of Georgia, north of the Chattahoochee River, and which had been ceded to the State of Georgia by the Cherokee was designated as Cherokee County. Much of the area of Cobb County (including the project area) was surveyed and sectioned into 40 acre "gold lots" and distributed in Georgia's sixth and final Land Lottery (1832). In 1832 Cobb County was created from districts 16, 17, 19, and 20 of the original survey. The Reed House is located in roughly the center of Land Lot 49, 17<sup>th</sup> District, Second Section of present Cobb County.

*Daniel Reed:* The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War (Davis *et al.* 2003:Plate 60, Number 1) indicates two "Reed" household structures in the general vicinity of the present Reed House by 1864 (Figure 4). Daniel R. Reed is mentioned in Temple's (1980) history of Cobb County as a "pioneer settler," which is defined as all those settlers who arrived in Cobb County before 1840. Temple (1980) further indicates that William Reed, Daniel's father, migrated from England to South Carolina, but no date for this event is given. Daniel Reid is also mentioned in George White's "Historical Collections of Georgia" (1966) as an early settler to Cobb County. Rebecca Reed, Daniel's wife, was a charter member of the Concord Baptist Church and Daniel Reed later joined the congregation (Temple 1980).

Deed records indicate that Daniel Reed purchased Land Lot 49-17-2 from Jacob Meadors on February 11, 1839. He paid \$63 for the 40-acre lot (Cobb County Deed Book O: 29). Reed had previously purchased Land Lot 48-17-2, south of the project area, on December 13, 1836 for \$86 (CCDB O:19). The purchase amounts may indicate that no structure was extant on the property at that time. On February 5, 1868 the heirs of Daniel Reed sold a large portion of the Reed estate to John L. Reed for \$510. This parcel included Land Lots 96, 97, 98, 47, the southern 20 acres of Land Lot 48, and 9 acres of the east side of Land Lot 49,

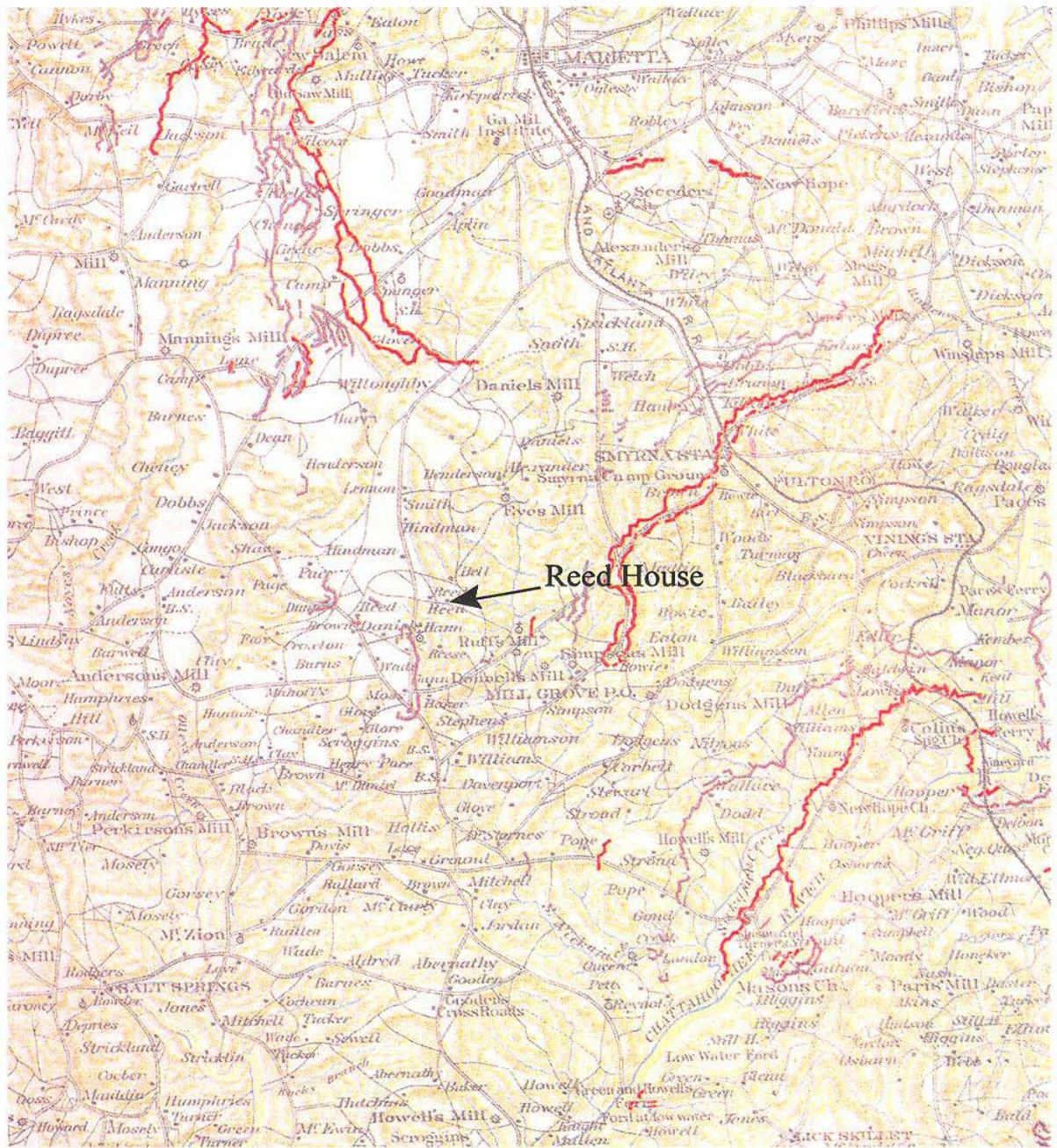


Figure 4 Civil War Map Showing Location of Reed House (Davis et al. 1983)

a total of 169 acres all in the 17<sup>th</sup> District, 2<sup>nd</sup> Section of Cobb County. This included that part of Land Lot 49-17-2 east of Donald Road.

On December 7, 1870, the heirs of Daniel Reed sold the north half of Land Lot 48-17-2 (20 acres) and 31 acres of the west side of Land Lot 49-17-2, including the property on which the Reed House lies, to A. J. Cheney. The 51 acre property sold for \$623. Though the property involved in this transaction does not have the same description or dimension as that purchased by Daniel Reed 31 years earlier, the dramatic increase in value of the property implies improvements and is notable as a possible indication that the Reed's home was on this property before 1870. The deed for this transaction further indicates that the property was known to have been part of the dower, or life estate of Rebecca Reed following the death of her husband in 1870 (CCDB O:30). This is further indication that the Reed family homeplace was on the property at that time.

*A. J. Cheney, J. H. Reed, and W. B. Smith:* Between the years 1870 and 1871 the property changed hands at least three times. A. J. Cheney purchased the north half of Land Lot 48-17-2 and 31 acres of the west side of Land Lot 49-17-2 from the Daniel Reed estate for \$623 on December 7, 1870 (CCDB O:30). Cheney sold the 51 acre property to J. H. Reed one year later on December 11, 1871 for \$180 (CCDB O:31). After only twelve days, Reed sold the property on December 23, 1871 to W. B. Smith for \$382 (CCDB O:32). A. J. Cheney was a prominent merchant in Cobb County who may have sold the property, in part, to settle a debt or for other consideration since he purchased the land for considerably more than the \$180 for which he sold it. Little is known of J. H. Reed and W. B. Smith, the other individual owners of Land Lot 49-17-2 during this time.

*Hiram B. Reed and E. R. Langley:* Between 1871 and 1879, it appears that W.B. Smith sold the land to Hiram B. Reed, although no record of this transaction was found. It is therefore not known how long W.B. Smith owned the land. However, in 1879 Hiram Reed used the land as loan collateral for the first of many times. James R. Glore first held title to the property on October 9, 1879 to secure a \$398 loan (CCDB O:34). Over the next 38 years, Reed used the land as collateral six additional times: on December 19, 1887 to Mary F. Glore for \$100 (CCDB K:29); on February 16, 1898 to J. R. Winters for \$237 (CCDB W:733); on February 3, 1903 to J. M. Reed for \$160 (CCDB BB:644); on November 24, 1906 to R. A. Hill for \$500 (CCDB JJ:213); on February 8, 1909 to E. B. Smith for \$900 (CCDB XX:354); and on December 22, 1917 to R.E. Daniel for \$1000 (CCDB YY:472). The last two and largest transactions included all of Land Lot 48, the 31 acres of the west side of Land Lot 49, and an additional 5.5 acres located in the southeast corner of Land Lot 24 (approximately 76.5 acres). It is unknown as to when H. B. Reed acquired the entirety of Land Lot 48 and the 5.5 acres of Land Lot 24, however, based on the dates of the above transactions, it was between 1906 and 1909 -- the additional land may have been the result of an inheritance from another member of the Reed family or it may be an indication of Reed's prosperity.

On August 11, 1921, Hiram Reed sold an undivided half interest in that 76.5 acres to E. R. Langley for \$2000. Upon Reed's death in April of 1924, his will held five items: 1) a request for a "Christian-like" burial; 2) payment of his debts; 3) that everything remaining be left to his beloved wife Margaret E. Reed; 4) notice reflecting the half-interest sale in his land to E. R. Langley and a request that his executrix (Margaret) sell the remainder of the land to Langley, if he wanted it, at the price of \$2000 with three years to pay at a 7 percent interest rate (or longer at Margaret's discretion); and 5) that after Margaret's death the balance of his estate should go to Concord Baptist Church with a mandate to match that balance and construct a parsonage. It was also noted that if the church defaulted, the balance would go to the Georgia Baptist Orphan's Home in Hapeville (Cobb County Probate Record OOP2900-01). E. R. Langley had first right to the other half of the land, and he bought the additional acreage from Margaret on May 5, 1924 and maintained it until 1940 (CCDB 80:329).



Figure 5 1942 Aerial Photograph Showing the Reed House and Surrounding Property



Figure 6 1960 Aerial Photograph Showing the Reed House



Figure 7 1972 Aerial Photograph Showing the Reed House

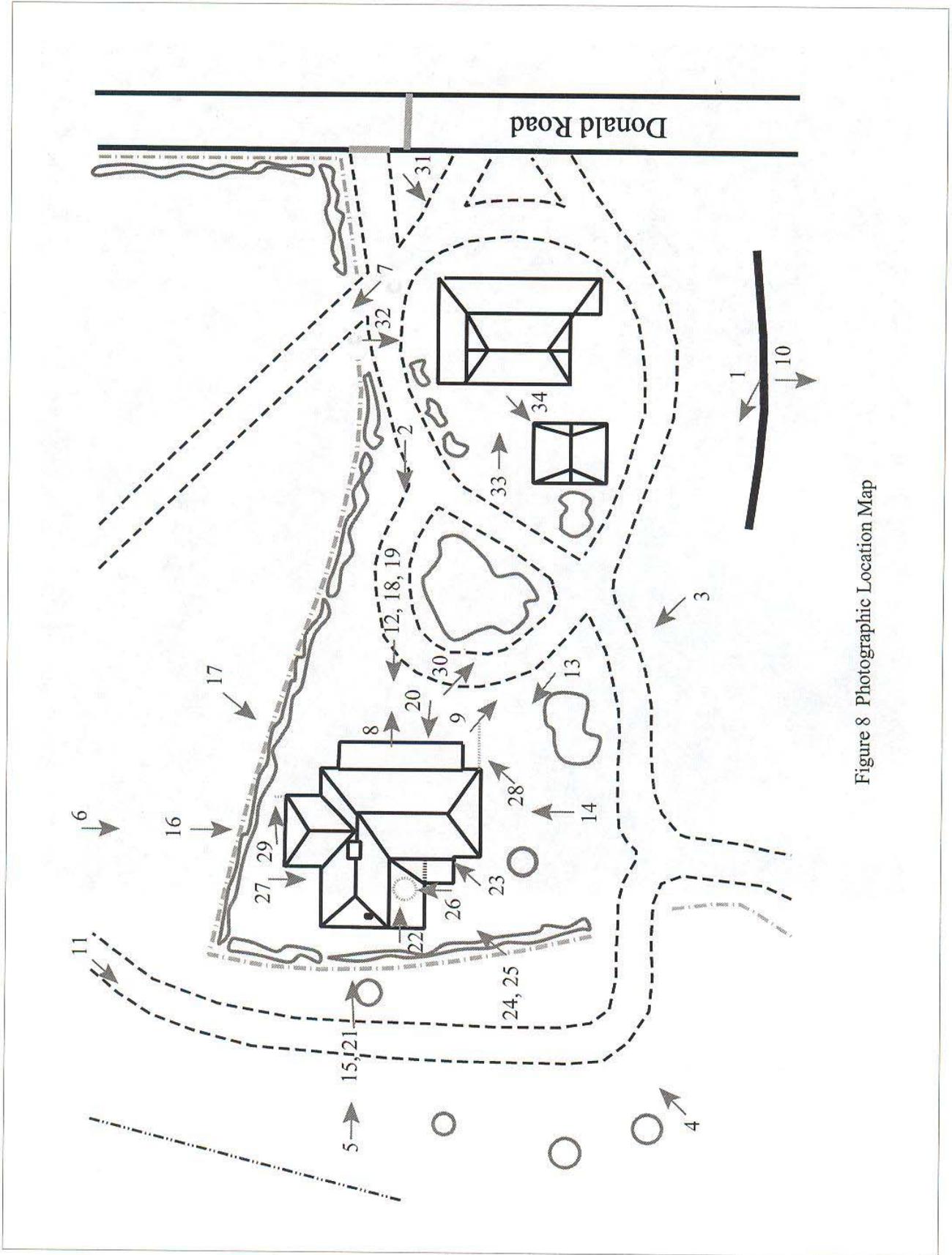


Figure 8 Photographic Location Map

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Donald Road  
Cobb County, Georgia

Courtney Helfrecht, Photographer, R. S. Webb and Associates November 4, 2004

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