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JUN 28 1993

Ala. Historical Commission



# Alabama Register Property Information

## 1. Name

historic William Carter Home

and/or common Poole Place (Pine Flat Plantation)

## 2. Location

street & number 15 mi. w. of Greenville on Ala. Hwy. 10 (SE1/4 of NW1/4 S.17,T.10,R.12)

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of Forest Home

state Alabama county Butler

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other Bed & Breakfast

## 4. Owner of Property

name Jane and George Inge

street & number 1555 Dauphin St.

city, town Mobile, AL 36604 \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Alabama

## 5. Please use space below to sketch floor plan/site plan.

Please see attached item #5.

# 6. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Please see item #6.

# 7. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Please see attached item #7.



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## 8. Major Bibliographical References

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Please see attached item #8.

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## 9. Geographical Data

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Acreage of nominated property 11.202 acres

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see attached item #9.

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## 10. Form Prepared By

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name/title Judy Atkins Taylor (Mrs. Dennis Taylor)

organization \_\_\_\_\_

date 9 April 1993

street & number 201 Overlook Road

telephone (205)382-6852

city or town Greenville

state Alabama 36037

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**11.** Please submit color slides of the property with this form.

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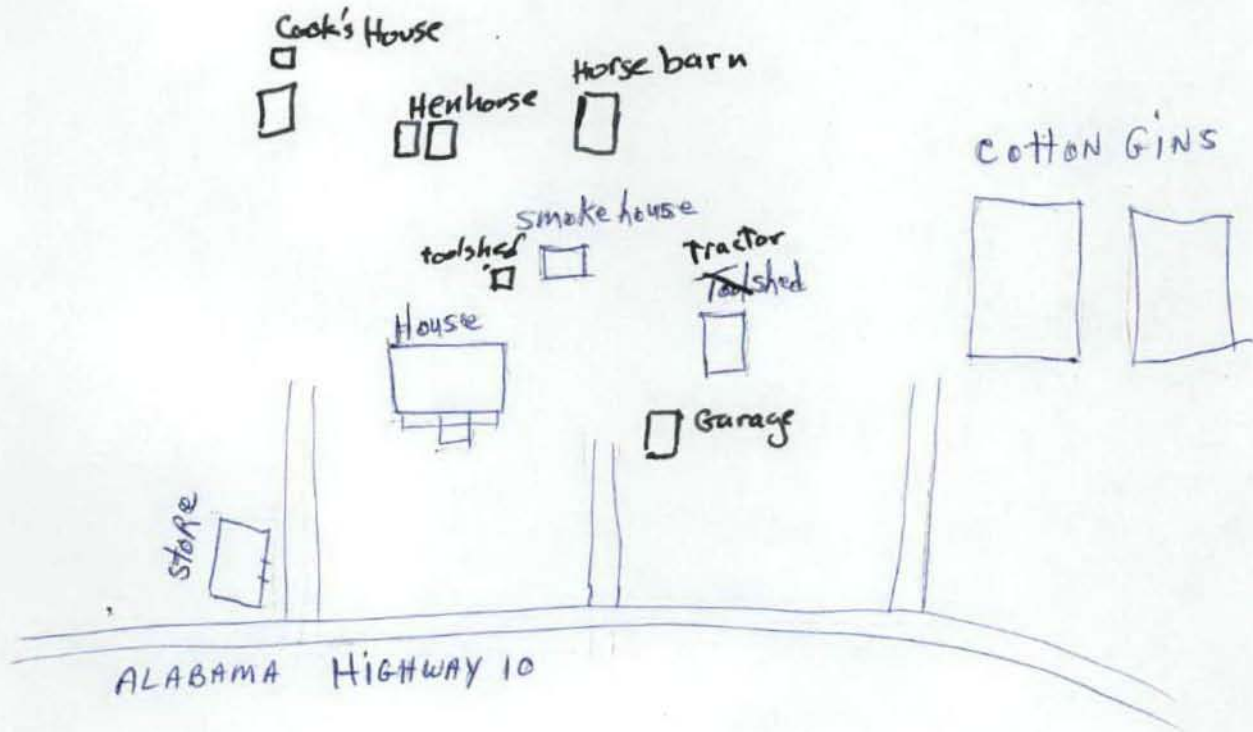
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**12.** Please return ALABAMA REGISTER form to:

ALABAMA REGISTER COORDINATOR  
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
725 MONROE STREET  
MONTGOMERY ALABAMA 36130



sketch map showing the locations and relationships of the buildings.





The original William Carter Home was a typical two-story Early American residence. Its foundation was made from native rocks stacked to a height three feet from the ground. Huge hand-hewn twelve-inch squared logs or timbers were fitted together to form support for the walls. The wooden exterior walls are painted white.

A two-storied portico, supported by eight columns (4 upper and 4 lower) has wooden shingles on the gable above. A porch was later added across the entire front of the house, and smaller ones at the side and back.

The gable roof is covered on the front with slate shingles, and on the back with tin. In the attic, the sub-roof is visible, showing the twelve-inch wide heart pine boards.

There are two original chimneys, one on either side of the house, with fireplaces in two rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs. Another fireplace in a corner of the dining room was added at a later time.

Massive hand-hewn double doors grace both the front and rear entrances. Above each set of doors is a transom, or oblong window, inset with twelve individual panes. Upstairs, the double doors to the portico, or porch, have been replaced with a single door with transom.

A unique feature between the living room and music room is a set of antique sliding doors which disappear into the wall when not in use.

Across the front of the house, the four upstairs windows have 2/2 panes. Downstairs, there are five windows, some having 6/6 panes. All around the house shutters adorn all the windows.

The charm of the staircase rising to an unusual landing breaks the severe lines of the large hallway dividing the first floor. The inside walls of the spacious rooms are made of wood with no wallpaper or sheetrock added. Most of the flooring is original with the exception of the kitchen where some twelve-inch wide boards brought from the attic have been utilized. Square-cut nails are visible in the staircase to the attic as well as in the 6-8 inch wide floor boards throughout the house.

Years ago the kitchen was attached and recently modernized. A bay window in the living room, probably added during the latter half of the nineteenth century, has been removed to make way for a music room. On the opposite side of the house a bath has been added, and on the back of the house a laundry room has been made. Recently central heat and air conditioning have been installed. Upstairs, bath facilities have been modernized, and a few closets added.

The house, situated on flat, level land, is surrounded by azaleas, camellias, and pine trees. To the west of the house stands the weather beaten country store. Behind the house sits the two-story smoke house, where the vast fields of the planters can be seen. The enormous cotton gin operation is located on the east side of the plantation.

It is not known what the original William Carter Home looked like exactly, because no early photograph could be located. However, several homes in this area, which were constructed around this time period, resembled the Crenshaw Home (please see item #6-A) and the Carter Home probably had those same simple, substantial lines.



The Carter Home is one of the few remaining houses built in Butler County during the early settlement of south Alabama. Built around 1825-1830, it is well over 150 years old, and during those years has been the home of some of this area's most influential families.

The Tract Book of Butler County shows the first owner of this property as Jeremiah Watts, uncle of Thomas Hill Watts, the only governor of Alabama from Butler County. It is not known whether Jeremiah Watts' home was located on this property or on other land he owned nearby. We do know that his house burned in 1829 and he moved to Lowndes County, dying there in 1844.

We cannot prove when William Carter purchased this property because the fire in April 1853 completely destroyed the Butler County Courthouse and all Probate Records, including the deeds. Tradition says that William Carter built his home in 1825 and we can find nothing to disprove this. It is possible that it was a few years later if this was the same location where Jeremiah Watts lived. We are fairly certain the house was built by slave labor since William and his brother, David, were successful slave traders as well as planters. William, his wife Lucinda, and their family moved around 1851 to Freestone County, Texas, where he built a "palatial home" and died in Texas in 1857.

William and Lucinda Carter sold their plantation at Pine Flat to three distinguished individuals: Robert S. Hardaway, Arnold Seale, and James E. Gachet. Robert S. Hardaway, formerly a Senator from Russell Co., Alabama, had moved to Columbus, Georgia, where he served as President of the Mobile and Girard Railroad and was one of the Directors of the Muscogee Railroad.

Because of his good relationship with the Indians, Arnold Seale, of Russell County had been appointed by the President to help with the Indian removal from Alabama to Oklahoma. He served in the Alabama legislature in 1839 and was a promoter and builder of the Mobile and Girard Trunk Railway. The town of Seale, Alabama, was named for him.

The third member of this group was Col. James E. Gachet, one of the first settlers of Stewart County, Georgia. By 1840, he had moved to Barbour County, Alabama, where he was a large slave owner. Later he settled near Union Springs, Bullock County, Alabama.

It is not known what business venture these three men were involved in, but the 1856 Butler County Tax List shows Seale, Hardaway & Company owning 1,727 acres of land valued at \$7500. They sold the property that same year to Rev. Seaborn Moore, Sr., a prominent minister. Rev. Moore and his family lived there until his death in 1871, when it was sold to John A. Smith and his wife. By 1885, John A. Smith was the wealthiest man in Pine Flat, as well as one of the wealthiest men in Butler County. He owned between \$15,000 and \$95,000. He and his family lived there until 1904, when they moved to California.

At that time the property was sold to Joseph Davidson Poole, who had served four terms in the Alabama legislature representing Lowndes County. J.D. Poole was also a County Commissioner for Butler County and had extensive agricultural operations. At his death in 1907, his plantation, known as the "Carter Place" and "Smith Place" contained 1,136 acres, was passed on to his family. His son, Joseph N. Poole, Sr., was widely known in the economic and political affairs of Alabama. He was State Commissioner of Agriculture in 1943 and ran for governor in 1946. J. N. Poole, Sr.'s son, Harry D. Poole, inherited this property from his parents and recently sold it to the present owners, Dr. George B. Inge and his wife, Jane Carter Inge.



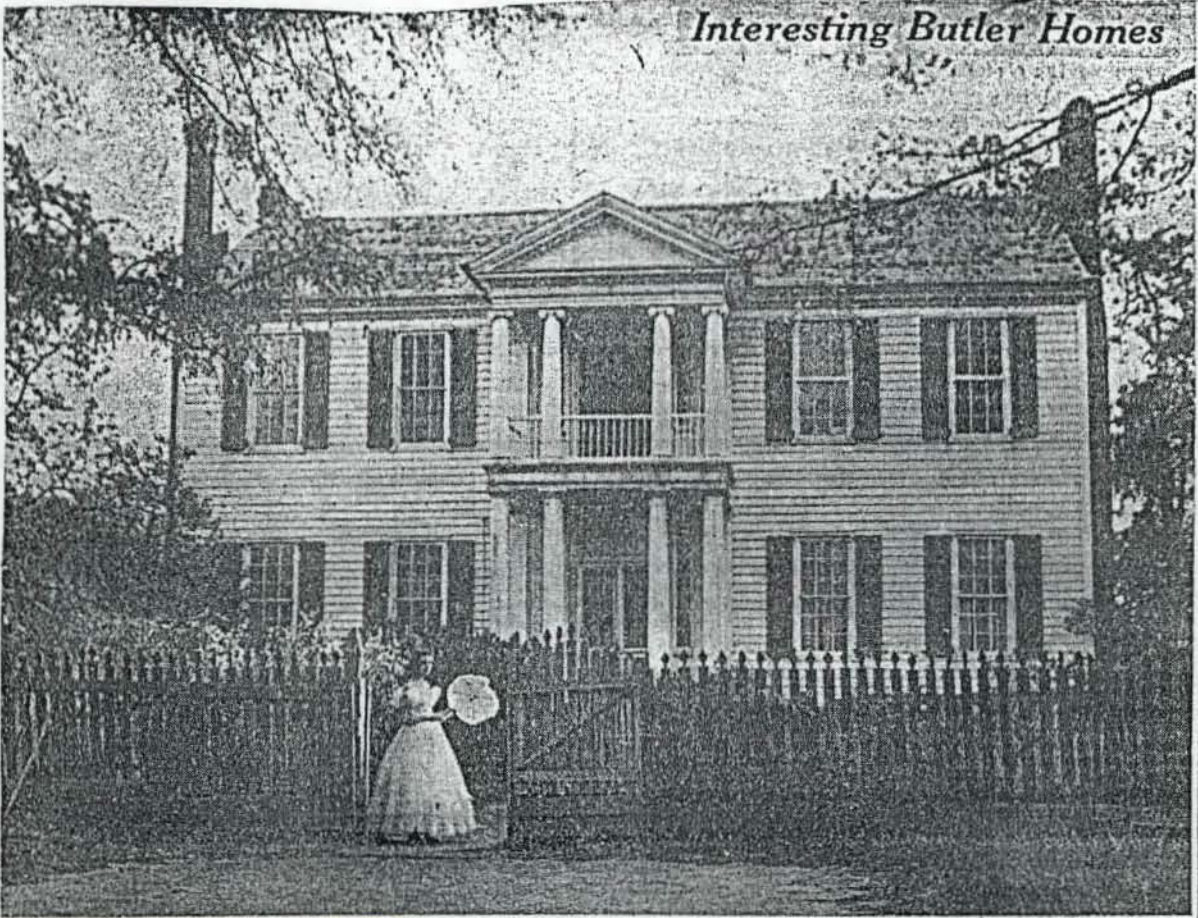
Through the years, there have been some minor changes in the house. The kitchen has been attached and recently modernized; a bay window in the living room has been removed and a music room has been added; on the opposite side of the house a bath has been added; a fireplace has been added in the dining room. Recently central heat and air-conditioning have been installed. Upstairs, bath facilities have been modernized, and closets have been added.

The present owners have carefully restored the house and have opened a "bed and breakfast" so that visitors from everywhere can enjoy this fine example of an early plantation home that they have appropriately named "Pine Flat Plantation."

Butler Co.

old #6-A

Interesting Butler Homes



**THE NOLAND CRENSHAW HOME**, located on The Ridge, 12 miles northwest of Greenville, was built by Judge Anderson Crenshaw, the grandfather of the present owner. Judge Crenshaw, born in South Carolina in 1782, came to Alabama in 1819 and settled in Cahaba, then capital of the state. He moved from Cahaba in 1822 on account of the high waters which occasionally invaded his home there, and came to Butler, which was in his judicial circuit, Judge Crenshaw already having been elected a circuit judge and member of the State Supreme Court. He built a home, which still stands, back of the William Crenshaw

home, across the road from the house pictured here. In 1838, Judge Crenshaw began the construction of this home, using slave labor. He moved into the residence in 1840, and the residence has been occupied by members of the same family continuously.

This home, one of the four palatial homes built more than one hundred years ago by members of the Crenshaw family, is typically Early American. Much of the furniture now in the home came from South Carolina, brought with the builder when he came to Alabama. In the grove in front of the home is the small building which Judge Crenshaw used as an office. In the

carriage house there is the carriage which he used to make his rounds while serving as judge. The carriage is still in a fair stage of preservation, and is a handsome vehicle, a Brougham with open driver's seat, enclosed passenger compartment — the type vehicle which was the inspiration for the limousine.

Standing at the gate in the picket fence, made of cedar wood, is Mrs. Fred Crenshaw (Bobby King), wearing a gown which is appropriate in a picture of this beautiful home, built 112 years ago. Engraving courtesy Greenville Ice Company.

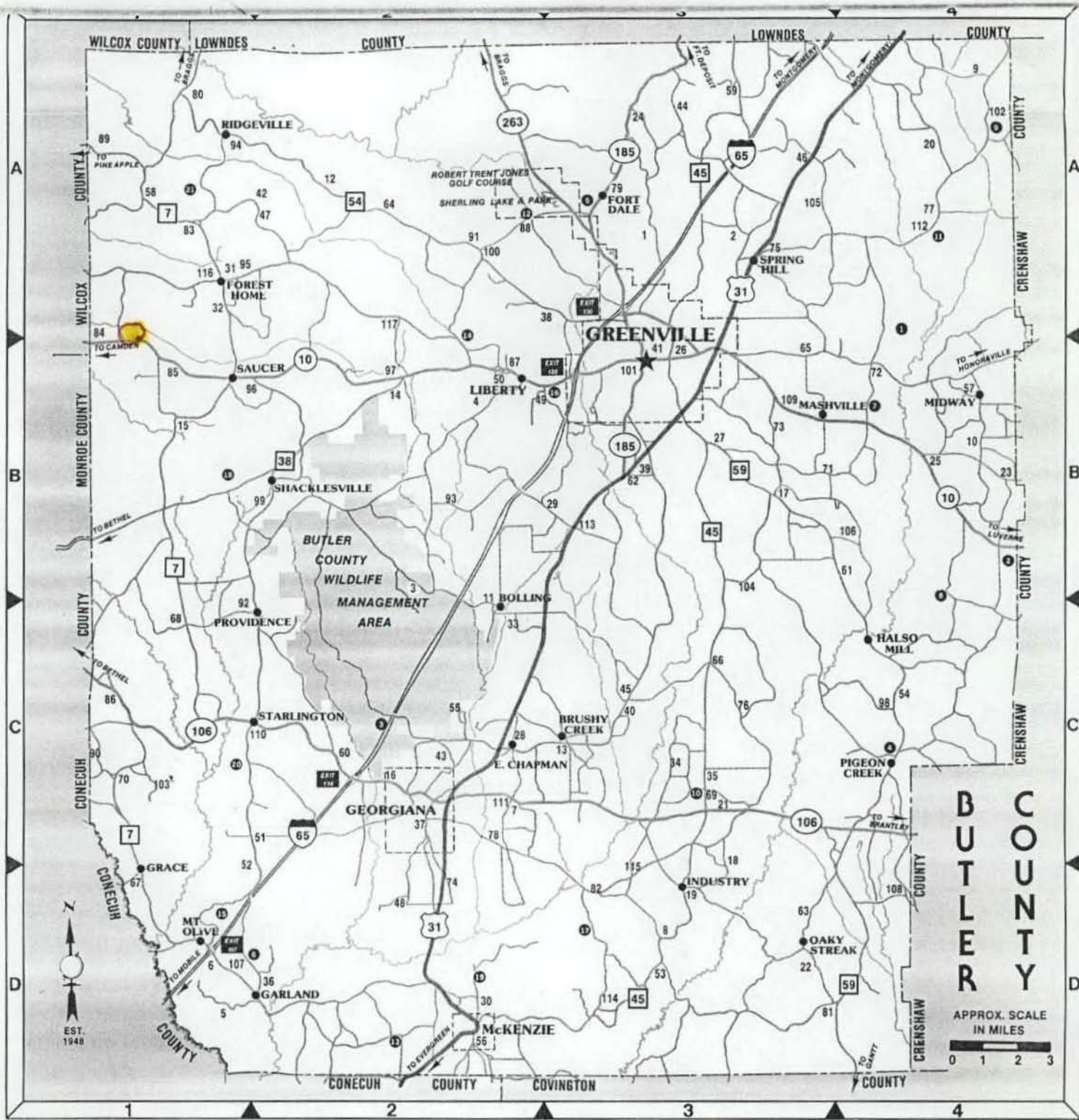
Greenville Advocate

7-19-51



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**BUTLER COUNTY**

APPROX. SCALE IN MILES  
0 1 2 3

EST. 1948