



STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130
PHONE: 261-3184



ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE
Nomination Form

COUNTY CHOCTAW COUNTY

NAME: Present Zack Rogers House Historic

LOCATION: Street and Number 238 East Smith St.

Town (Give directions if rural) Butler

A MAP WITH THE LANDMARK MARKED MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM

CATEGORY: Building (X) Structure () Object () Site () District ()

USE: Present dwelling, rented Historic dwelling

OWNERSHIP: Public () Private (X)

Owner's Name Mrs. Nan P. Rogers

Mailing Address 212 East Smith St.

Butler, AL 36904

INTEGRITY: Original Site (X) Moved () When?

From where? (Give details in significance.)

CONDITIONS: Excellent () Good (X) Fair () Ruins () outbuildings are in fair condition

THREATS: No (X) Yes () By What?

RESTORATION WORK: Being considered () Underway () Completed () Not planned (X)

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open land () Woodland () Scattered buildings ()
High building density () Commercial () Industrial ()
Residential (X) Rural ()

Acreage 8

For all categories other than a district and object give a site plan with a North arrow. Show related buildings.

For a district give a verbal boundary description and attach a sketch map of the district.

The house lies south of Smith Street in Butler on an eight-acre tract. It is bounded by Smith St. on the North, a residence on the East, timberland on the South, and an old ice plant on the West.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Why is this landmark significant? (X) associated with events, persons, or movements
Local (X) State () National ()
(X) a good example of a type or style of structure
() other

Explain: (Briefly state why the above is true)

The house is architecturally significant as a good example of a vernacular form of architecture in Choctaw Co. It also maintains two associated outbuildings, a log smoke house and a wood storage house.

The house is also significant for its association with the Rogers family, prominent citizens of Choctaw County.

Date of Construction or Period of major importance. c.1880

Architect or Builder (Give name and biographies, if known) unknown

Give a complete but concise history of the Landmark. Include information on important people and events associated with the landmark. (USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY)

Choctaw County records were destroyed by a courthouse fire in 1871, making documentation of the house difficult. A local newspaper, The Courier makes reference to the house on three instances. May 26, 1883: "Our young friend, Mr. R. Abney is fencing in an improving the residence lately occupied by Andrew Moore. Don't know but reckon Bob must be going to keep bach." June 2, 1883: "The Mansion of Mr. R. Abney is undergoing a general repair. The contractors are Messers Nat Moody and Raz Crawford. When the work is completed the residence will add great attraction to that already pretty part of Butler." July 12, 1883: "Mr. R. Abney has nearly finished painting and papering his house. He is sparing neither pains nor expense to ornament the cage: when will the bird be caught and domiciled?" On Jan. 11, 1888, R.A. Abney and wife Annie deeded the (Con't)

State sources of information, giving full bibliographical data:

Butler Tax Records

Owens, Thomas M. The History of Alabama. p. 533.

"The Courier" 2 June 1883, 12 July 1883, 11 January 1888.

DESCRIPTION: PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE LANDMARK MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM.

Complete as directed below for each category.

BUILDING:

Number of stories one Foundation brick piers Basement none

Wall Material: (Note changes from one floor or wing to another)
(clapboard, brick, stone, wood shingle, board and batten, stucco over wood or brick, metal, logs)

5" pine clapboard. Under porch the exterior wall is flush tongue-and-groove pine.

Structural System: (If known)

Wood frame (X) Load-bearing masonry () Iron or Steel ()

History (Con't)

house to B.L. Bruister. In 1896 Bruister was assessed "10 acre lot and house in Butler" for \$500. On November 10, 1902, Bruister deeded the house to Joseph Breitling. He died intestate on Oct. 10, 1910. The heirs of Breitling were Annie Gray, Desma Woodward, and S.E. Breitling. Desma Woodward conveyed the property to Annie Gray in 1915. C.P. Wilcox conveyed the property to Annie Gray in 1914. In 1916 the Grays conveyed the house to Zack Rogers, Sr.

Rogers was superintendent of education in Choctaw Co. He is cited in a state history as owning a residence in Butler with 500 acres of farming land. His son, Zack, Jr., remained a resident of Butler and became mayor of Butler in 1958. He kept this position until 1977.

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Roof Type: (Gable, Gambrel, Mansard, Flat, Hipped, Combination) Gable, side facing
Roof Covering: (Wood shingle, Asphalt, Tile, Metal, Slate) Fiberglass composition shingle
Roof Trim: (Cornices, bargeboard, brackets, etc.) ornamental cornice moldings a facade
and rear

Porches: Front (type and description) The front porch is an applied gallery with five
plain turned wood columns.

Rear (type and description) No rear porch

Side (type and description) No side porch. Owners believe that the hallway
was originally a side porch.

Doors: Main entrance (location, description) Two doors on the facade. The original doors
were replaced in the mid-20th Century.

Other entrances (location, description)

There is a third door on the facade where the porch is believed to have been enclosed.
There is a back entrance and rear entrance, both original doors have been replaced.

Windows: Types and number of each floor of facade The facade features two sets of paired
double-hung windows. A third window is next to the door where the porch is believed to be
Types and number per floor for sides and rear enclosed.
same type as facade.

Interior: Describe mantels, stairways, wainscoting, plasterwork and any unusual features.
The floors are pine. The interior walls are heartwood pine. Some walls have been
covered with sheetrock and wall paper. The central chimney, which has been enclosed,
contains two fireplaces for the two front rooms. There are wooden mantels ober the
two fireplaces.

Other: Use this space to describe any additions, alterations, outbuildings or other
features of the structure and its surroundings.

The owners believe there was originally a side porch and that the side porch was enclosed
to make the hallway. The front porch and house were extended in the 1920s to add a small
room on the south end of the house.

The smokehouse is a log structure with a tin roof. The store house is board and batten
with a tin roof. The barn is primarily a log structure with a tin roof. There is an
outside water will that has been covered and bricked for safety purposes. There are sev-
eral great oak trees, a pecan orchard, azaleas, and ornamental plans on the lot.

On an additional sheet make a sketch of the floor plan of the building, showing
dimensions if possible.

THIS IS NOT REQUIRED!

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

- STRUCTURE: On a separate sheet of paper give a complete as possible verbal description of the structure. (See examples)
- OBJECT: On a separate sheet of paper give a complete as possible verbal description of the object. (See examples)
- SITE: On a separate sheet of paper give the present description of the site and how the site is believed to have looked during its period of importance.
- DISTRICT: On a separate sheet of paper give a general description of the district. Also needed is a numbered list of the structures in the district corresponding to the sketch map. This listing should include a name for the structure, a date of construction, a brief description, a statement of why the structure is significant, if it is.

A MAP WITH THE LANDMARK MARKED AND PHOTOGRAPHS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM

Map: A U.S. Geological Survey Map is preferred, but if you are unable to obtain one a county highway map may be used.

USE ONLY PENCIL TO MARK ON MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS.

Photographs: Black and white, glossy finish, 5 x 7, or 8 x 10, is preferred.

FORM PREPARED BY

Name Mrs. Nan P. Rogers and her son Marvin Rogers Date Butler-459-2918
Address 212 East Smith St. 1521 13th St. Telephone Tusc.-349-2852
Town Butler 36904 Tuscaloosa 35401
Organization _____

For Alabama Historical Commission use only

STAFF COMMENTS:

MAP REFERENCE: MAP _____

U. T. M. Reference Zone Easting Northing

Thematic Category _____

Added to ALABAMA REGISTER 3-30-89

NATIONAL REGISTER Potential

The Landmark is associated with events of state or local historical significance.

The Rogers' home was constructed in or about the year 1880, and is, therefore, one of the oldest standing houses in continuous use in Butler, Alabama, and in Choctaw County, Alabama.

The Landmark is representative of a type, style, or period of architecture.

The Landmark is a classic folk house. This includes the main structure and the "smoke house" and "carriage house" behind the main house.
or storage house

History of the Landmark: We have no precise information concerning:

- (1) The date that the Landmark was constructed;
- (2) The owner who constructed the Landmark; or
- (3) The architect or builder.

After a great amount of research, we have compiled the following information concerning the ownership and construction of the house. There is the following reference to the house in Vol. 2 of "The Courier" published in Butler, Alabama on Saturday, May 26, 1883: "Our young friend, Mr. R. Abney is fencing in and improving the residence lately occupied by Andrew Moore. Don't know but reckon Bob must be going to keep bach (?)" (Sic) (presumably "bach" refers to "bachelor"). There is another reference to the house in Vol. 2 of "The Courier" for Saturday, June 2, 1883: "The Mansion of Mr. R. Abney is undergoing a general repair. The contractors are Messers Nat Moody and Raz Crawford. When the work is completed the residence will add great attraction to that already pretty part of Butler."

The following is a final reference from "The Courier" for Thursday, July 12, 1883: "Mr. R. Abney has nearly finished painting and papering his house. He is sparing neither pains nor expense to ornament the cage: when will the bird be caught and domiciled?"

A search of the deed records indicates R. A. Abney and wife, Annie M. Abney executed a deed to B. L. Bruister on January 11, 1888, recorded in Book O, Page 556, on March 1, 1887 conveying "one house and lot in the Town of Butler . . . [describes property on which the Landmark lies]." There is no recorded deed into R. A. Abney, but it is an historical fact that the Choctaw County Courthouse burned in April, 1871, and all records were destroyed.

A search of the Choctaw County Tax Assessment Records indicates that in 1884, "R. A. Abney" assessed "dwelling house and lot in Butler". The "improvements" were assessed at a value of \$300.00. Presumably, the "dwelling house" referred to is the Landmark.

The tax assessment for 1879 indicate that "A. Abney" assessed lands in the same section, township, and Range on which the Landmark lies, but no "improvements" are indicated on the

property. We have no precise information whether "A. Abney" is the same as "R. A. Abney". Perhaps "A. Abney" is the father of "R. A. Abney." Nevertheless, the failure to indicate "improvements" in the 1879 Tax Assessments may indicate that the Landmark had not been constructed in 1879.

Note that there are references in the Tax Assessment records to a "Col. A. Abney." There is general oral history in Choctaw County lore that "Col. A. Abney" was a soldier in the Confederate army of some notoriety.

As stated above, R. A. Abney, et ux. conveyed the Landmark to B. L. Bruister on January 11, 1887. A search of the Tax Assessment records in 1896 indicates that B. L. Bruister assessed "10 acre lot and house in Butler" for \$500.00.

By Deed dated November 10, 1902, B. L. Bruister and wife, Helen E. Bruister conveyed the Landmark to Joseph Breitling. The Deed was recorded at Book 1, Page 33, on January 29, 1903.

The Probate records indicate Joseph Breitling died intestate on October 10, 1910. The heirs of Joseph Breitling were Annie Gray, Desma Woodward, and S. E. Breitling.

Desma Woodward, et ux. conveyed the Landmark to Annie Gray on February 24, 1915 (Deed Book 18, Page 85, July 6, 1915). C. P. Wilcox conveyed the Landmark to Annie Gray on February 26, 1914 (Deed Book 19, Page 419, July 6, 1915).

On December 16, 1916, Mrs. Annie Gray and husband W. L. Gray conveyed the Landmark to Zack Rogers, Jr. (now referred to as "Zack Rogers, Sr."). The Rogers family continues to own the Landmark.

The Landmark is associated with the lives or persons of significance in the state or locality.

Zack Rogers, Sr. purchased the property on which the Landmark sits on December 16, 1916. Zack Rogers, Sr. served as Choctaw County Superintendent of Education from 1919 through 1943. For a detail of the life of Zack Rogers, Sr., see the attached description of Mr. Rogers from History of Alabama and Her People, Volume II, page 533.

Zack Rogers, Jr., the son of Zack Rogers, Sr., was born in the house in 1918. Zack Rogers, Jr. served as Mayor of Butler from 1958 through 1977. For detail of the life of Zack Rogers, Jr., see the attached description.

The Landmark is presently owned by Mrs. Nan P. Rogers, the wife of Zack Rogers, Jr., deceased.

The house having been owned and occupied since 1916 by the Rogers' family, a family which has been active in local affairs for many years, we believe that the house has local historical significance.

Company, of which he is president, his three sons being his associates, F. N. Phillips, secretary-treasurer; C. T. Phillips, general manager; and J. P. Phillips, assistant and cattle buyer. His daughter, Maria, is now the wife of W. B. Mills. By his second marriage, with Miss Carrie Robertson, of Tennessee, he has a son, W. R. Phillips. Mr. Phillips is a member of the Methodist Church, is fraternally affiliated with the Masons, and is interested in civic affairs, having served as alderman of Birmingham for two years. He is noted for his liberality in contributing to worthy causes.

In his line of work Mr. Phillips is conceded to be one of the best judges of live stock in the country, and his services are in great demand as a judge at big expositions and fairs. He is the only Southern member of a committee to confer with live stock producers, appointed by the Institute of American Packers. Few men have in greater degree the respect and esteem of their fellow-citizens.

Louis Hoster is president of the Bessemer Foundry and Machine Company. His father, the late Louis Hoster, was founder of this business. His father was one of the expert foundry men and iron workers attracted at an early date to the Birmingham district.

Louis Hoster, Sr., was born in St. Louis, Missouri, March 3, 1851. His parents, Charles and Christina (Herbst) Hoster, came from Germany, and were married in St. Louis. Charles Hoster arrived in America in 1848, was a butcher by trade, followed that occupation for several years and then engaged in the retail meat business for himself. He was one of the members of the old St. Louis fire department.

Louis Hoster was reared in St. Louis, was educated in the Lutheran parochial schools, and before he was fifteen was earning his own living. July 15, 1866, he went to work for Thomas Howard and Company, iron founders and manufacturers. He remained with that company and its successors thirty-two years, until 1898. In the meantime he had become a stockholder in the business, and when the firm, in 1891, established a plant to manufacture cast iron water pipe and gas mains at Bessemer, Louis Hoster came here to take the position of assistant superintendent of the business, and later became secretary of the company.

Louis Hoster, Sr., on August 30, 1899, organized the Bessemer Foundry and Machine Company. Subsequently he acquired the interest of his other associates, and for a number of years the business has been a family concern. The company owns an entire block of land at Eighth Avenue and Twenty-fourth Street, with buildings covering practically the entire block. The company manufactures castings of all kinds, cast iron pipe fittings for water works, equipment for sugar refineries and does a general foundry business.

Louis Hoster, Sr., who died June 9, 1922, had been active in business for more than a half a century. He was a director of the Bessemer National Bank, had served on the Bessemer City Council and was a member of the Masonic fraternity. He married, April 2, 1873, Miss Clara Boecke, of St. Louis, who survives him. They reared three of their six children, Louis, Jr.; Adolph, who died at the age of forty-two; and Clara, who married W. E. Nees, of Selma, Alabama.

Louis Hoster, Jr., was born at St. Louis, Missouri, February 3, 1874. His early educational advantages were supplied by schools in St. Louis and Macon,

Missouri, and as a youth he went to work for the Howard and Harrison Iron Company, his father's old firm. Subsequently he worked for the American Cast Iron Pipe Company and the United States Cast Iron Pipe and Foundry Company. Shortly after the organization of the Bessemer Foundry and Machine Company, in 1899, he became interested with the company, and on the death of his father succeeded to the presidency of the company.

He married Miss Sadiabell Peterson, of St. Louis, Missouri. Her father, Charles Peterson, was a general contractor and builder in that city. Mr. and Mrs. Hoster have three sons, Chester Adolph, Louis III and Charles David.

PROF. ZACK ROGERS. Prominent among the progressive, energetic and efficient men who are contributing to the educational advancement of Alabama is Prof. Zack Rogers, of Butler, superintendent of education of Choctaw County. Mr. Rogers, who has held his present post for eight years, has brought to his work zeal, enthusiasm, a thorough knowledge of educational principles and a real desire to be of the greatest possible benefit to those placed in his charge, the result being that he has made a success of his work and has made the Choctaw school system one of the best in the state.

Mr. Rogers was born on a farm six miles west of old Bladon Springs, at Rescueville, Choctaw County, September 13, 1884, a son of Zack and Martha (Elliott) Rogers. His paternal great-grandfather, Zack Rogers, was born in the Carolinas, whence he came in young manhood to Alabama and settled in Choctaw County as a pioneer. He acquired large land holdings, which he operated with slave labor and died a man of substance in advanced years at Isney. He married Betsy Carr, of Pensacola, Florida, and from this union reared seven boys and three girls. One of the boys, Samuel Rogers, the grandfather of Superintendent Rogers, spent his entire life as a planter in Choctaw County with the exception of a few years in Mississippi. Like his father, he was a successful planter. He married Miss Eliza Harrell, and both died in Choctaw County.

Zack Rogers, the father of Professor Rogers, was born near Isney in 1841, and was reared in that community, growing up as a planter's son, being a member of a large family. When still little more than a youth he engaged in farming on his own account, establishing himself six miles west of Bladon Springs, at what was then Rescueville, but is now Cullomburg, being there engaged in operations until the outbreak of the war between the states, when he enlisted and served until the capitulation at Vicksburg. He then returned to his farm, where he continued to carry on successful operations until his death in 1917. He was a staunch democrat in his political allegiance, and his religious faith was that of the Missionary Baptist Church. Mr. Rogers married Miss Martha Elliott, who was born in 1841, in Georgia, and died on the home farm in 1919, and they became the parents of the following children: William, a merchant, who died at Cullomburg, aged thirty-one years; Jefferson B., an agriculturist, who is operating the old home farm; Aaron W., a substantial planter residing at Healing Springs, Washington County, Alabama; Laura, the wife of Adolph Grandquest, a farmer of Whistler, Mobile County, this state; her twin, Emma, the wife of Monroe Thompson, a farmer of Healing Springs; Mattie, the wife of Ben M. Locke, a farmer near Milroy, Washington County; Elizabeth, who died at the age of twenty-six at DeSoto, Mississippi, as the wife

of Warren Burt, who is now a resident of Philadelphia; Dr. LaFayette, an optometrist by profession, a member of the House of Representatives at Montgomery in 1915, and who now owns and operates the old home farm; Carrie, who died in 1902, at the age of twenty-one years; and Zack, of this review.

Prof. Zack Rogers attended the public schools of Choctaw County and early decided upon a career other than that of the farm. Accordingly he pursued a course at the First District Agricultural School at Jackson, Alabama, for one year, and following this spent three years at the State Normal School at Troy, from which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1907. He immediately entered upon the duties of his chosen calling, securing the position of principal of the Oak Grove public school in Pike County, where he remained for one year, and then became assistant teacher of mathematics at the State Normal School at Troy, where he remained for a like period. In the meantime he took a post-graduate course, his special subject being mathematics, and received his degree of Bachelor of Science in 1909. In addition to the above training he has credit for quite a bit of work at the University of Alabama. With this preparation Professor Rogers secured a position as instructor of mathematics at the Talladega (Alabama) High School, where he remained from 1909 until 1911, in the latter year coming to Butler to become assistant principal and instructor in mathematics of the Choctaw County High School until 1913, when he was made principal thereof. He filled that position very capably until February, 1918, when he was appointed superintendent of education of Choctaw County, his present position, his offices being located in the Court House at Butler. Under Superintendent Rogers' supervision there are fifty-five schools, and approximately 100 teachers and 2,500 pupils. His work has been successful because of the manner in which he applies his educational skill, his marked executive ability and the friendly relations that exist between him and his staff, which results in smooth cooperation. He owns a comfortable residence at Butler and 500 acres of good farming lands in Choctaw County. In his political allegiance he is a democrat. A member of the Missionary Baptist Church, he has taken an active part in its work, and now serves as clerk of the church at Butler. Fraternally he is affiliated with Gilead Lodge No. 9, A. F. and A. M., and was a former member of the Knights of Pythias and Woodmen of the World, and now belongs to the Alabama Education Association. On July 30, 1913, at Butler, Professor Rogers was united in marriage with Katie Merle Sparrow, a daughter of William J. and Emma (Ryan) Sparrow, agricultural people of Choctaw County, of which county Mr. Sparrow has been tax assessor for a number of years. Mrs. Rogers is a granddaughter of the noted Baptist minister, John King Ryan, who did a splendid work in West Alabama. She attended the State Normal School at Livingston, Alabama, and is a woman of marked intellectual gifts. She and her husband are the parents of one son: Zack, Jr., who was born September 9, 1918.

AUGUSTIN LAWRENCE WOODLIFF. It was given to the late Captain Augustin L. Woodliff to wield large and important influence in connection with civic and business affairs in Alabama, which state he represented also as a soldier and officer in the Confederate ranks in the Civil war, besides having made a record of equally loyal and constructive service as a member of the Alabama Legislature. He was

one of the most honored and influential citizens of Gadsden, judicial center of Etowah County, at the time of his death, which occurred when he was seventy-seven years of age, his wife having passed away at the age of eighty-four years.

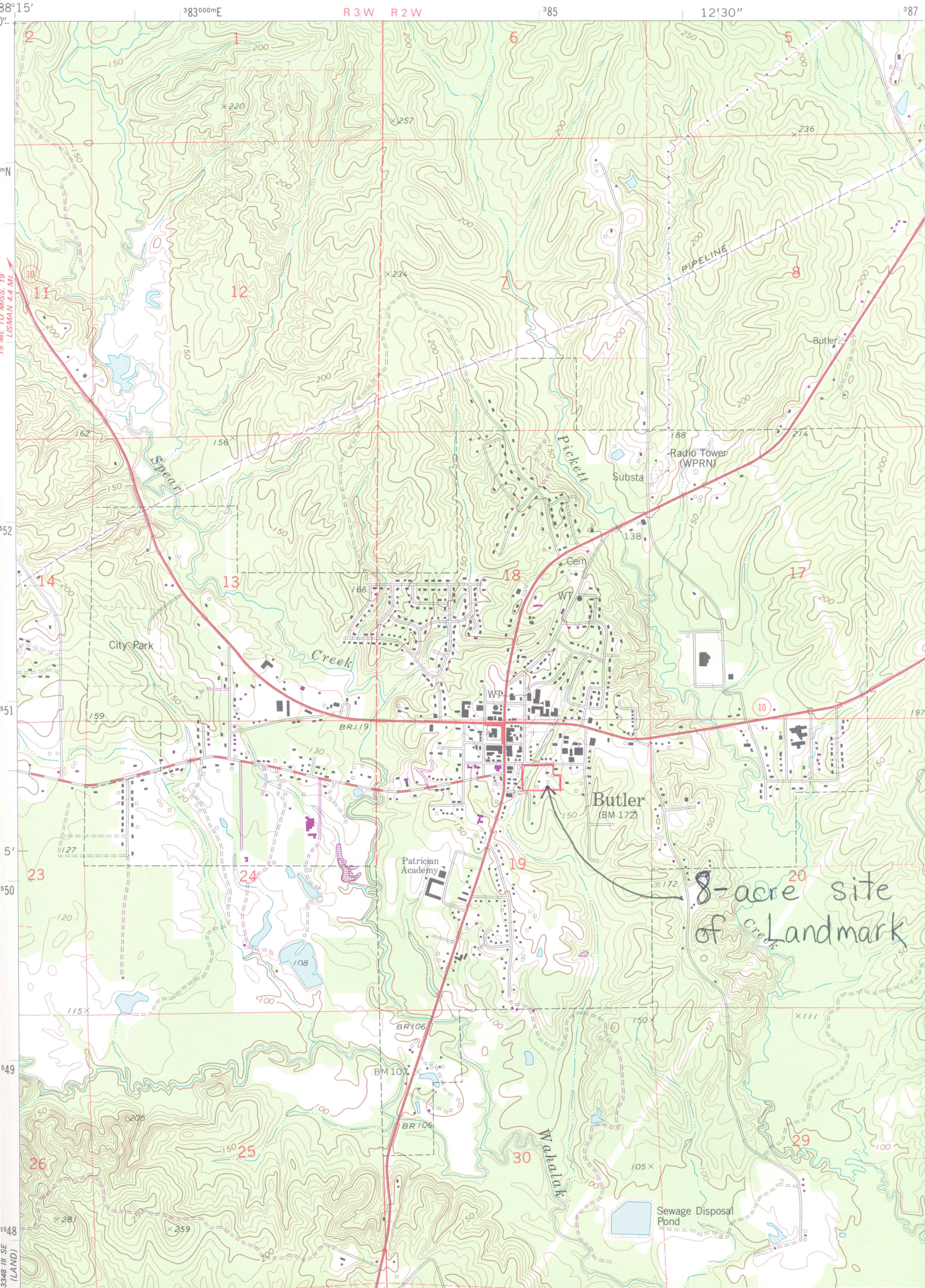
Captain Woodliff was born in Hall County, Georgia, October 7, 1827, and was a son of George and Isabella (Henderson) Woodliff, the former of whom was born in Virginia, in 1786, and the latter of whom was born in South Carolina, in 1792, their marriage having been solemnized in Clarke County, Georgia, where George Woodliff established his residence in 1820 and where he became a successful pioneer planter, as well as a citizen of influence in community affairs. George Woodliff served as a soldier in the War of 1812, as did also his father, the latter having been previously a patriot soldier also in the War of the Revolution, in which he represented his native Virginia. The founder of the Woodliff family in the colony of Virginia came to America from Scotland. George Woodliff died in 1849, and his wife likewise died in Clarke County, Georgia, where they reared their children, six in number.

Captain Augustin L. Woodliff passed the first seventeen years of his life on the old homestead plantation of his parents, and in the meanwhile he duly profited by the advantages of the schools of the locality and period. In 1846 he took a clerical position in a mercantile establishment at Nuckelsville, Georgia, and a year later he became associated with business affairs at Gainesville, that state, where he remained until 1850. His youthful ambition at this time was quickened to decisive action of adventurous order, and he made his way to the newly discovered gold fields in California, where he was substantially successful in his operations and where he remained until 1853, when he returned to Georgia, fortified with a considerable sum of money. In January, 1854, Captain Woodliff took unto himself a wife, and shortly afterward he engaged in the mercantile business at Cumming, Georgia. There he remained until 1857, when he came to Alabama and established his residence at Gadsden, now the official center of Etowah County, where he engaged in the general merchandise business.

When the Civil war was precipitated on the nation Captain Woodliff promptly subordinated all personal interests and volunteered for service in defense of the cause of the Confederate states. In 1861 he enlisted in Company G, Nineteenth Alabama Regiment of Infantry, in which he was soon promoted from first orderly to third lieutenant. In 1862 ill health compelled him to resign his office and retire from active military service, but in May, 1862, he reentered the service, in the capacity of first lieutenant of Company D, Forty-eighth Alabama Infantry, in which he was promoted to the office of captain within less than a month thereafter. He was with his command in the now historic Seven Days Fight around Richmond, Virginia, and among the engagements in which he took part were those of Cedar Run, a conflict with the enemy near Culpeper Court House, the second battle of Manassas, siege and capture of Harper's Ferry, and the battles of Antietam and Fredericksburg. In March, 1863, Captain Woodliff resigned his commission in order to accept appointment as tax assessor in his home district, a service that at that period was one of paramount importance as touching the Confederate cause.

In the autumn of 1865 Captain Woodliff was elected to the Alabama State Senate, and in the same he introduced the bill for the creation of Baine

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



8-acre site
of a Landmark











