CHAPTER 4. RESULTS OF ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

One interesting aspect of the extended study of the Lake Oconee area has been the opportunity to research the many of sources of historic data relevant to the local area. One goal of the ongoing work has been the gradual accumulation of very specific information, as well as general information, which could be used to better interpret the known archeological sites and others that might be found as additional property around the lake is surveyed. The current project is an excellent example of a location that has been studied by both historians and archeologists and thus is known to have important research potential. Long term research also allows us to address some of the inconsistencies relating to previously reported historic sites and historical events. There are a number of published accounts relating to the history of the Lake Oconee area but relatively few use original documents to confirm specific site locations. As a result, important historic features, some of which relate to the project area, have been imprecisely located or have been located by various researchers in quite different places.

The following chapter will be divided into two sections. The first section examines the local community within and surrounding the project area. The second section examines the project area with respect to the individuals who actually lived there during the period of the early nineteenth century to the mid twentieth century.

Institutions and Place Names Associated with the Local Community

The project area is located in the eastern part of Putnam County above the Oconee River and lies opposite the line which separates Greene and Hancock counties (Figure 57). The early road system connected the area with the county seats of Putnam and Hancock. Eatonton is located about 12 miles to the west and Sparta about 10 miles to the east. Greensboro is located roughly 17 miles to the north but the road system was never particularly conducive for travel in that direction. The early community of Mount Zion in Hancock County was one of the nearest towns during the mid nineteenth century. The local community became known as Rockville at some point in the nineteenth century.

Like most frontier regions, there are relatively few surviving records associated with the first years of settlement. From an archeological perspective, the first settlements in any area are the most difficult to identify because pioneer structures were seldom substantial and many houses were occupied for only a few years and then abandoned. Many of the first settlers simply kept moving west as new land was made available. More information is recorded with respect to the wealthy planters who acquired large tracts of land in the 1830s and 1840s because these people actually lived and died on the land. As the early economy of the area shifted from small subsistence farms to large plantations, churches and schools were created which were closely linked to the plantation families. By the latter part of the nineteenth century, many of the old planter families had died out and those churches and schools were gradually abandoned. By the middle part of the twentieth century, cemeteries were often all that remained to mark the old communities’ institutions.

The published maps dating to the early and mid-nineteenth century show only a few landmarks near the project area. The land lot map of Baldwin County provides names for some of the river features, such as shoals and islands, but few additional details. Figure 58 depicts a portion of that map and shows the land lots near the project area. Notations on the figure provide further details which were found on the individual plat maps. The map shows a couple of grist mills on the Greene County side of the River and identifies shoals that were named for the early settlers of that county.
Figure 57. Map showing modern and historical landmarks located near the project area.
Figure 58. A portion of the 1803 composite map of District 2 of original Baldwin County.
Relatively few nineteenth century maps provide the names of earliest communities or other local landmarks. Maps produced in the first half of the nineteenth century generally depict the major roads with no particularly accuracy. The Sturgis Map of 1818 is a good example. That map shows no major roads or landmarks associated with the project area. The map shows a road running parallel to the River on the eastern site but no indication of a crossing at old Cooper’s Bridge (Figure 59).

A post office map of Georgia and Alabama, dated 1839, shows post offices by the names of Rockville to the west and New Hope to the east of the project area (Figure 60). Of interest, the road shown on that map crosses the Oconee to the north of Cooper’s Bridge at a location that should approximate the Lawrence Ferry area. The location of the road possibly represents nothing more than inexact mapping.

The Bonner map of 1847 provides more detail and shows the road system more accurately (Figure 61). Ferry names are not given but the road locations appear to accurately show Little’s and Lawrence’s ferries.
The Bonner map and most maps dating to the mid nineteenth century show Curtright (Merrell) Factory at Long Shoals which was established in the mid 1840s for the benefit of the local planters. Some maps label the area as Curtright while others use the village name of Merrell. Figures 62 and 63 show two examples of later nineteenth century maps of the area. The 1865 U.S. Coast Survey Map shows most of the same features as the Bonner map with the addition of more place names such as New Rockville. The 1876 map of Putnam County is the most revealing map produced during the period because it includes names of prominent landowners. The map shows the home of K. (Kinchen) Little and another location identified as the Cooper Place. The map also shows the locations of Little’s Ferry, Lawrence Ferry, and the associated roads on the Putnam County side of the river. Flat Rock is labeled “Cedar Rock” on the map.
Figure 62. Portion of the 1865 U.S. Coast Survey Map.

Figure 63. Portion of the 1878 Map of Putnam County.
Few detailed maps exist that date to the early decades of the twentieth century. Perhaps the most important and most accurate map of the period is the 1919 Soil Map (Figure 64, also see Figure 53). The soil map shows standing structures, road routes, and other features. The soil map shows a cluster of houses on Little’s Ferry Road (not labeled) at the Kinchen Little Plantation and a north to south road representing old Lawrence Ferry road. A few isolated houses are shown along the length of Lawrence Ferry road but the road no longer extends to the river ferry crossing by that time.

Figure 64. View of the project area as it appeared on the 1919 Soil Survey map.
A detailed contour map showing the area to be covered by a lake to be created by the planned hydroelectric dam near the project area was produced by Land Department of the Georgia Power Company in 1928 (Figure 65). The Georgia Power map is a detailed topographic map which shows some structures and the roadways near the river. Lawrence Ferry Road is labeled on the eastern side of the river. This was a “working map” and notations were added as needed for a number of years. For example, the small effigy mound block in Land Lot 446 is added to be map in 1939 or later.
The earliest Georgia Highway Department map dates to 1939. The map shows the approximate locations of roads, houses, and some other features (see Figure 54). There are no early nineteenth century U.S.G.S. quadrangle maps for the immediate area. The 1912 USGS Milledgeville Quadrangle Map extends up the Oconee River to the southern boundary of Hancock County stopping well short of the project area. Detailed USGS quadrangle maps did not become available for the area until the late 1960s. As shown on the preceding maps, there are a number of cultural and geographic features which are relevant to the interpretation of the project area. Relevant transportation features include roads, bridges, and ferries, as well as the Oconee River itself. Other features include community structures churches, schools; complexes of structures associated with the old plantations, and recreational areas such as Flat Rock.

The primary transportation features associated directly with the project area include Little’s Ferry Road and Lawrence Ferry Road. The thoroughfare which eventually developed into State Highway 16 was known during the period of ca 1850 until the early twentieth century as Little’s Ferry Road. The road was known at an earlier time as Cooper’s Bridge Road and for a short time as Little’s Bridge Road. Modern Highway 16 with its new bridge was constructed in the late 1940s. The old Little’s Ferry Road winds through the project area beginning at the western edge of modern Highway 16 and cutting across that road near the eastern portion of the project area. Old Lawrence Ferry Road extended north from Little’s Ferry Road and crossed the Oconee River near the Greene/Hancock County line. Both of these roads appear on the 1878 Putnam County map and the 1919 soil map (see Figures 63 and 64).

Permission to erect the toll bridge was granted by Georgia Legislature in 1811 (Lamar 1821:118, Cobb 1911:1213). The act states that Joseph Cooper was operating some type of mill at the time and the toll bridge was to be placed near those mills. Most of the act deals with the rates or tolls that Cooper may charge for different types of traffic (Figure 66).

Cooper’s bridge is seldom mentioned in the published local histories of the region. Accounts, which are based on oral history were published in local newspapers by B.A. Bustin in the 1930s. Bustin grew up in the eastern portion of Putnam County and his columns contain information that is not generally available elsewhere. Because oral histories are involved, some caution is required with respect to specific dates and events. Extracts from two of his columns follow.

Figure 66. Act authorizing Joseph Cooper to erect a toll bridge in 1811 (taken from Lucius Q.C. Lamar 1821:118).
As we journey down the Oconee River we come to Little’s Ferry on the Highway between Eatonton and Sparta. Joseph Cooper and his nephew, Mark A. Cooper, settled in Putnam County in 1809, moving there from Powelton in 1809. [Note: Mark Anthony Cooper became quite influential in Putnam County as a Georgia Congressman, his business interests in the Cotton mill on the Little River. Mark A. Cooper is perhaps best known for an enterprise in Etowah Manufacturing and Mining Company located in the present-day Lake Allatoona area of northwest Georgia (Jeane 1984:80, Wood and Ethridge 1987:295].

When the traveler is on the flat crossing the river at Little’s Ferry if he will look up the river a few hundred yards, he will see old stone piers at regular intervals extending across the river. These were the piers of a wooden toll bridge erected by Joseph Cooper soon after moving to Putnam.

For many years before the railroads were built nearly all of the cotton raised in several counties west of the Oconee, traveled over this bridge on its way to Augusta.

Colonel Jacus Hunt who lived on the Hancock side of the river in those early days said that Joe Cooper’s toll bridge was a gold mine. Hunt said he had seen wagen trains three miles long cross Cooper’s toll bridge, loaded with cotton, and as each team paid one dollar for its passage, you can readily see why Hunt said he had a gold mine.

The planters usually ginned all of their cotton crops. Then many planters would band together in large wagon trains for mutual protection and assistance... (The Herald Journal, Greensboro, September 9, 1938).

Bustin wrote an article with a similar theme for the Eatonton paper the following week.

As we cross the ferry down at Little’s on the Oconee, we are reminded that his old ferry has nearly rounded out one hundred years of existence, and as we remember it succeeded a bridge that was washed away in 1941, we are assured that a new structure of steel and concrete will soon span the Oconee and the ferry will then probably pass away forever.

The old bridge it will replace, was a covered bridge, with gates at each end secured by heavy padlocks. It was a toll bridge and the fare was $1.00 for teams and carriages, for horseback riders fifty cents, and for pedestrians twenty-five cents. The bridge was owned by Joseph Cooper, who had moved from Powelton across the Oconee into the new county of Baldwin after the latter was laid out.

Before the advent of railroads nearly all the cotton west of the Oconee River to the Ocmulgee crossed the Oconee at different places en route to Augusta. Colonel Jacus Hunt of Hancock County said that in his boyhood days he had seen wagon trains of cotton three miles long cross the Oconee on Cooper’s Tool Bridge and said that Cooper had a veritable gold mine in this old bridge... (The Eatonton Messenger, September 15, 1938).

The bridge continued to be called Cooper’s Bridge for a period of time following his death in 1818 (Brantley 2000:98, 121). One deed for property in the area which was written in 1828 still referred to road leading from "Cooper’s Bridge" to Eatonton (Putnam County Deed Book N:49). Further research is necessary for certainty but there are indications that the toll bridge and possibly other enterprises were associated with a company known as "S. Weston and Cooper" (1823 Putnam County Tax Digest). Steven Weston was intimately tied to the Cooper family and served as executor of the Cooper estate until all the property was disposed of by 1830.

Cooper's Bridge was destroyed in the early 1840s during a period of particularly devastating floods (Cotting 1843). The flood was named the Harrison Freshet after the president by that name. Cooper’s bridge and much of the family property was eventually purchased by Kinchen Little. One deed for property makes reference to a "Little’s Bridge Road" in 1839 (Putnam County Deed Book N:478). Courthouse records provide little information concerning operation of the bridge or ferry during the period of ownership by Kinchen Little. Figure 67 shows a portion of the 1844 tax digest which makes a special notation of two carriages and the ferry on the Oconee as part of his taxable property. The 1844 tax digest represents a rare case in which ownership of the ferry is clearly associated with Kinchen Little. The valuation of the ferry was reportedly $12,000 in 1860 (Marshall 1995). In later years, the ferry is simply referred to as Little’s ferry which means that it may have been owned or operated by any number of Little offspring.
A few early to middle twentieth century newspaper accounts have been found which contain Little’s Ferry as subject matter. Two letters to the newspaper were written in 1924 following the death of ferryman John Ross. Ross’ death notice appeared in the *Eatonton Messenger* on January 18, 1924.

The ferry between Putnam and Hancock Counties, known as Little’s Ferry is out of commission, and there is a movement on foot among the residents of both counties to have the commissioners put in a new flat in order that traffic may move over this road.

A body of citizens from Sparta was in Eatonton several weeks ago at which time they conferred with the Commissioners as to plans for the reestablishment of this ferry.

It will be remembered that this ferry was operated for many years by “Uncle John” Ross, a slavery time negro, and a character that was known by all who had occasion to travel this way. He died some months ago and since that time the ferry has not received the attention it should (*The Eatonton Messenger*, May 30, 1924).

The following letter was written by Putnam County resident T.G. Dennis on June 2nd, 1924.

After reading the article written in your last issue of the Messenger concerning Little’s Ferry, I would like to state some facts.
Little’s Ferry connects Sparta and Eatonton of about 13 miles from Eatonton and about 15 miles from Sparta. For the last 12 years to by own knowledge, the ferry has been a public nuisance. Travelers avoided this ferry because they never knew how long they would have to wait for the ferryman. I have seen scores of cars every year turn around and go another way waiting for a ferryman. This has continued even after the road was turned over to the state Highway Department. The equipment at the ferry is about one-hundred years behind the present time and if it is put back in the same shape, it will be a disgrace to both Putnam and Hancock Counties. It seems as if it would be to the best interest of the voters and tax-payers of both counties to demand a first class crossing. The roads from the ferry to Sparta are in real good shape and the road from the ferry to Eatonton is in fair shape, but needs floating very badly (Eatonton Messenger, June 6, 1924).

Perhaps the best newspaper account was written just prior to its closing. The 1947 article provides a number of historic observations and suggests that the ferry then in operation was constructed by Milt Little after Sherman tore down the only bridge in the area during the Civil War. Milt Little should be F.M. "Milton" Little who was a son of Kinchen Little and assumed ownership of his father’s Hancock County property in the mid 1860s (see Cross interview in Appendix C). A ca 1915 map of Hancock County shows F.M. Little living in a house near the ferry location (Figure 68). Copies of the photographs and the text of the 1947 newspaper article is shown in Figures 70 and 71). According to a local source, the old ferry was purchased by the Manley family after it was replaced by the new bridge but the flat was lost during transport down river (Larry Manley, personal communication 2004).

![Figure 68. Portion of the ca 1915 “Walker Map of Hancock County” showing the residence of F.M. Little near the Ferry location (adapted from Shivers (1990) and used with the permission of the author).](image-url)
Figure 69. Copy of a 1947 photograph of Little's Ferry (Atlanta Journal Magazine, October 5, 1947)
The Journal Magazine car crossing the ruddy Oconee river on one of the few remaining old-fashioned ferry boats in Georgia, at historic Little's Ferry.

Free for the cutting; there’s a picture for the cover they have a garden in which they grow their vegetables, and two acres of corn for feed. Joe expects need to go to 25 a bushel. Next March, “what is it.” He keeps locust, and to improve his own meat. He also keeps a few turkeys, to eat in the fall, but he doesn’t want to eat them. He hunts—duck hunting is his favorite pastime—and he eats two good pot-luck-and-cotton dogs. Rock and money. He needs and amusement. There is a battery called; the house has no electricity. Water comes from a well in the yard. The two boys, Raymond, who is 12, and C. J. 13, go to a good school near Easton, by bus. In the summer vacations, they help with the ferry, which isn’t difficult to run. The whole family plan to go to a Saturday night, to buy groceries and see a movie. Running a ferry would be a good job for a philosopher, with plenty of time to consider the philosophical problems even during the busiest working times. But Joe Royal, 43, is a very logical and non-philosopher. He spends his spare time reading Western story magazines.

He has been married 27 years, ever since he was 18. What does his wife do for entertainment while waiting there by the river for the ferry to come? She reads Love story, he says, and True Romances.

The ferry boat is called the Little’s Ferry, and it is a very old-fashioned one. It is a small boat with a single engine, and it is powered by a single engine. The boat can carry up to 25 people at a time. The ferry operates from April to October, and during this time, it is a very busy place. The boat is painted red, and it has a little restaurant on board. The ferry is run by Joe Royal, who is the owner and operator.

The ferry operates on a fixed schedule, and it is free of charge. The ferry is a very popular place, and it is a great attraction for tourists who come to the area. The ferry is a great way to experience the local culture and enjoy the beautiful scenery of the area.

Figure 70. Copy of a 1947 article on Little’s Ferry (Atlanta Journal Magazine, October 5, 1947)
Another article appeared in 1949 which provides similar historic information for Little’s Ferry. The article is accompanied by rather poor quality photographs of the ferry and the newly constructed bridge (*Eatonton Messenger*, December 1, 1949).

Lawrence Ferry is something of an enigma. It is shown on the 1878 Putnam County map and a road which extends to the river is visible on most mid-nineteenth century maps (see Figure 64). Lawrence Ferry is referenced in a few newspaper and other published accounts dating to the 1860s and 1870s but very little additional documentation for the ferry. Two historical accounts follow.

*Sam’s Pilgrimage.* After Sam left our house [Turnwold] sunday morning, 20th Nov., with his mules and negroes, he crossed the Oconee, at Lawrence’s Ferry, and went on toward Sparta, thence journeyed East to Greene, then to Morgan, and thence home to Jasper county. This was the course taken by many refugees from this county, and Jasper. We record it as part of the history of middle Georgia (*The Countryman*, Dec. 6, 1864).

*May 21st, 1865:* We start from John Bonner’s for Eatonton, Putnam county, Ga., crossing the Oconee at Lawrence Ferry; camp to-night at Spivey’s during a heavy rain storm; my father and General S. [A.P. Stewart] shelter at Spivey’s house, the rest of us drenched (*Ridley 1906*:478).

The old Lawrence Ferry was probably part of an enterprise by planter Seaborn Lawrence related to Lawrence Factory, located just below the mouth of Richland Creek in Greene County (see Figure 57). The ferry is not shown on the 1919 soil map or later maps. The 1919 soil map does show a portion of the old road but it no longer extends to the river (see Figure 64). The 1928 Georgia Power map identifies a Lawrence Ferry Road on the Greene/Hancock County side but not the Putnam County side of the Oconee (see Figure 65).

A search of courthouse records produced little specific information. No deeds were found which show any association between the Lawrence family and the ferry. Published state records do not include records indicating any laws or acts of incorporation. The old road appears on a couple of early twentieth century plats. Figure 71 shows a plat dated January 20, 1913 that includes a road labeled “Old Lawrence Ferry Road.” The word “old” suggests that the ferry was no longer in use.

The 1939 highway map of Putnam County no longer shows any indication of the route of “old” Lawrence Ferry Road on the project area side of the river but instead shows a new road a short distance to the east (see Figure 54). It all probability the road was rerouted after the purchase of the property by the Georgia Power Company in the late 1920s. Our survey found remnants of old Lawrence Ferry road that remain visible today as “field roads” and as abandoned linear entrenchments.
River transportation was, of course, a major concern of the early settlers of the region. The law creating the Oconee Navigation Company was enacted during the first decade of the nineteenth century to allow the clearing of the channel of obstacles for river traffic to proceed from Milledgeville to near Athens (Walters 1995:134). The history of the project is covered in detail by both Rice and Williams (1961) and Walters (1995). One act, dated December 19, 1818, provided for the clearing of a channel 14 foot wide by 21 inches deep from Hudson’s Ford below Barnett’s Shoals to Fishing Creek in Baldwin County (Lamar 1821:518). Included among the stockholders of the company were a few former property owners associated with the project area. Included were Joseph Cooper, Raleigh Holt, and Robert White (Rice and Williams 1961:92). The Oconee Navigation Company was disbanded by about 1820 but efforts to create a transportation channel continued for another hundred years. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was conducting feasibility studies for the section of the Oconee as late as 1906 (Taft 1906:1).

During the nineteenth century, a lack of easy railroad access was always considered a problem by local planters. A meeting was held in Eatonton was held to discuss transportation issues and the construction of a railroad from Augusta to the state’s interior. Later that year, the General Assembly authorized organization, with $1,000,000.00 of capital stock, to be used for building a railroad or turnpike between Augusta and Eatonton. The capital stock for the Augusta and Eatonton Railroad Company was to be raised privately. In December of 1833, the act authorizing the Augusta and Eatonton Railroad Company was repealed and replaced with the authorization of the Georgia Railroad Company, which was charged with the right to build a railroad from Augusta to the interior of the state. Connecting lines were to extend to Athens, Madison, and Eatonton. A Central of Georgia Railroad Company was also chartered, which would build a line or canal from Savannah to Macon. Construction of a rail line from Augusta to Athens began in 1835 and the line to Greensboro was completed in 1838. Construction on the Central of Georgia Railroad line reached Macon in 1843. The line to Eatonton ran through Milledgeville and was completed in 1851. A rail line to Sparta was slower in coming. In 1860, the Georgia Railroad Company pledged to build a line from Warrenton to Macon which would pass through Sparta. Construction began, but due to the Civil War, construction materials became scarce and construction stopped. It was not until 1870 that the Macon and Augusta rail line was finally completed. The railroad company went into receivership two years later in 1878 and was bought by the Georgia Railroad in 1880 (Shivers 1990:91-96;206-207). The Macon and Augusta line passed through Sparta before passing into Baldwin County. Figure 72 shows the primary rail lines built during the nineteenth century.

Local citizens tried on several occasions to convince the railroad companies of the need for a line in their area. Curtright Factory, having no railroad within fifteen miles, was dependent upon a fleet of wagons to haul factory products to the nearest rail heads at Greensboro or Eatonton. The Curtright Company offered $100,000 (in stock) to the railroad company to run a line from the Eatonton line to Greensboro via Long Shoals (American Railway Journal, September 8, 1849:568). Rumors of a possible line continued for many years. The following is taken from an article from the Rockville Community written in 1890.

![Figure 72. Map showing nineteenth century rail lines.](image)
We notice that the political pot is beginning to simmer in almost every direction over the state, but we folks out this way would much rather hear of a rail road coming out this way. We are kinder "bottled up" out here, and want a rail road bad. Our neighbors just across the river in Greene Co., are teasing and worrying Capt. C. Hart, president of the Union Point & White Plains road to extend his line on through the lower portion of Greene, crossing Oconee river near Lawrence’s Mill and on through Putnam to connect with the Macon & Augusta at Haddocks in Jones county. They seem to believe that Capt. Hart is favorably impressed with the above route. Will we ever get the road? I don’t know (Eatonton Messenger May 24, 1890).

Georgia’s planter class were primary backers of the railroads prior to the Civil War. The will of the project areas principal property owner Kinchen Little listed 55 shares of "the Capital Stock of the Eatonton Branch Rail Road" in 1863 (Putnam County Probate Office, estate records).

Industrial sites were an important part of the development of the area primarily because of an abundance of water power. A number of nineteenth century mills and a couple of larger cloth factories were established near the project area along the Oconee River and the larger tributary streams. The area of the Oconee River immediately adjacent to the project area was recognized at the beginning of the twentieth century as an important location for hydroelectric generation. Three of the sites were excavated during the Wallace project in 1978. The work at Curtright Factory, Ross’s (Atwood’s) mill and Lawrence Factory is recorded in Wood (1992).

Early gristmills and sawmill sites shown on the 1805 Baldwin County composite map and the 1818 Sturgis map are listed by the names Rutledge, Mitchell, Reed, Lowe, and Chambers. Very little documentation exists for these early mill sites. Later in the nineteenth century, several more substantial commercial grist mills appeared in the area. Among these were Ross’ Mill at Long Shoals (Wood 1992:102), Harris Mill on Shoulderbone Creek (Shivers 1990).

The larger cotton factories were established by local planters in an effort to cut out the middle man and increase their own profits. Because southern planters were notoriously poor businessmen, the local factories seldom lasted very long. Curtright or Oconee Mills (9GE37) was established in the mid 1840s and survived until a few years after the Civil War. Portions of the factory building remained standing prior to the flooding of Lake Oconee (Figure 73). The factory included a village with several hundred inhabitants. While a few individuals from the Putnam County area did work at the factory, most of the laborers had to be imported. Figure 74 shows a site plan of the factory and village made at the time of the University of Georgia work in the mid to late 1970s.

![Figure 73. A 1978 photograph of Curtright Factory (UGA Wallace files).](image-url)
Figure 74. Site plan of Curtright Factory (adapted from DePratter (1976) and Wood (1992:56).
Additional information pertaining to the history of Curtright Factory is found in Hunt (1976) and in the autobiography of Henry Merrell (Skinner 1991). Examination of planter estate records in Greene, Hancock and Putnam Counties has produced some evidence of the extent to which local plantation owners supported the enterprise. An examination of Putnam County records provided only one receipt. That receipt was found in the estate files of Kinchen Little in the Putnam County Probate Office (Figure 75).

![Figure 75. Copy of a receipt of cotton from the estate of Kinchen Little dated October 24, 1865.](image)

Lawrence Factory (9GE50) was substantially smaller than Curtright Factory but our knowledge of the factory and the associated mill village is quite limited. A detailed account of land transactions associated with the mill is provided by Wood (1992:115). Lawrence Factory was incorporated in 1851 for the purpose of manufacturing wool and cotton (Green County Deed Book PP:359). That deed lists Hancock County resident, Seaborn Lawrence as the founder of the company. The list of eight stockholders included Seaborn J. Owens who owned property in the northeastern portion of the project area (see Figure 63).

Wood noted that while the Lawrence Manufacturing Company apparently had grand plans, the extent to which those plans were implemented remains unclear and while the company planned to manufacture cotton and wool goods, there is no indication that cotton or wool yarns were ever produced (Wood 1992:120). Our review of local newspapers has produced some record of wool production. A small notice in the Temperance Banner dated June 17, 1854 follows. A second advertisement appeared a couple of years later after a period of reorganization (Figure 76). That figure includes a receipt from Lawrence Factory which was found in the Greene County Probate estate records.

_The Lawrence Factory, situated on the Oconee River, a few miles south of Curtright Factory, continues to manufacture woolen goods for negro clothing. Those wishing to have their wool manufactured into cloth, will please send their wool to the Factory. If the wool is washed we will furnish every material except the wool, and charge fourteen cents per yard for manufacturing, half cent per yard will be charged for washing, when the wool is sent in with dirt. To those that have used the cloth, it is ...to recommend it - to those that have not tried it, try it, and you will be sure to try again. William Hudson, Agent (Temperance Banner (Penfield, Georgia) September 2, 1854)._

The factory along with the store house, all machinery, and ten acres was put up for sale in 1856 (*Temperance Crusader*, February 2, 1856). Lawrence Factory was eventually changed to become a grist mill which operated into the latter part of the nineteenth century (Wood 1992:120).
The development of hydroelectric power was a major local concern throughout the twentieth century. Many of the details of the planning and eventual construction of the dam and power plant have been previously covered in Chapter 2 of this report. As noted in that section, the earliest concerted effort to develop the area as a power source was undertaken by Charles F. Howe in the first decade of the twentieth century (Figure 77). The plat shows the location of the proposed dam which is actually quite close to the present Wallace Dam location. Note that the plat is drawn with north to the bottom. Howe’s plans never materialized and after a couple of decades many local people eventually became convinced that his project was little more than a scam.
Georgia Power purchased the property previously acquired by Howe and substantially more land during the late 1920s. Georgia Power’s plans to construct a hydroelectric dam and a more extensive reservoir at that time fell through because of the economic depression of the period. Lake Oconee was eventually constructed in the late 1970s. Figure 78 shows a portion of the cleared reservoir area. The dam is visible under construction at the far right side of the photograph. A portion of the current project area is visible as wooded areas at the bottom of the photograph. Further details concerning the acquisition of property in the area will be included with the section of this report which examines chains of title.
Community development with respect to the project area may be examined from several angles. Relatively little is known of the first political and religious institutions which would have developed during the first decades of the nineteenth century. Early records refer to meeting houses which often served as churches, schools, and local courthouses. One such meeting house is mentioned in 1817 in Land Lot 423 to the south of project area (Deed Book F:201). The name Cracker’s Neck, a nineteenth century crossroads community, located in Greene County, has at times been applied to a much larger area that includes the project area (Rice and Williams 1961:481, Walters 1995:81). The history of Cracker’s Neck has been embellished by local historians to such an extent that many of the historical accounts should probably be viewed as little more than folklore. Rice’s History of Greene County devotes several pages praising the character of the people of Cracker’s Neck which included most of the plantation owners associated with the project area (Rice and Williams 1961:481). Rice places essentially all of southwestern Greene County and apparently a little bit of eastern Putnam County within the realm of the Methodist stronghold called Cracker’s Neck.

Rockville is a more appropriate name for the local community in Putnam County (Figure 79). The name Rockville appears on area maps as early as 1839 (see Figure 62). That map shows the location of the Rockville post office just west of the project area. One 1849 account says that Rockville had two stores, one church, and one school (White 1849:480). The 1878 map shows Rockville as a small circle to the east of the Enterprise and Oconee Churches. By that time, the entire militia district was known as Rockville (District 307). As implied by the 1839 map, the community has continued to use the name of the early post office. An examination of post office records shows the earliest use of the name in 1826 with Steven Weston as first postmaster. Subsequent post masters included Riley Bachelor, Allen Beale, Lucius Rogers, and John Crafton. The Rockville post office was discontinued in 1861 and local service was apparently replaced by the Spivey post office. New Rockville Post Office was established in 1898 with Frank Branch as postmaster. The post office was discontinued only a few years later in 1907 (Record of Appointments of Postmasters 1832 to 1971).
Accounts of the later history of Rockville (New Rockville) area are found in Walters (1995:353) and Little (1999:36). According to those sources “New Rockville” was established in the 1890s with Rockville Academy as a focal point. Relevant information is also available in an early historical sketch of the school (DeJarnett 1911). Figure 80 shows a photograph of the academy.

Figure 80. Copy of a 1913 photograph of Rockville Academy (courtesy of Rockville Academy Museum).

The sketch map of the early 1900’s Rockville area shows only a few landmarks near the project area. The Little house is designated by Forrester Little who would have been a grandson of the Kinchen Little. Little's Ferry is shown, but Lawrence Ferry is not shown. Our search of local newspapers provided a number of references to the later community of Rockville. A particularly detailed description was printed in 1960 by Patty Almy. The text of that article follows.

The first consolidated rural school in Georgia still stands at Rockville. It is also the first rural vocational school in the state - and the first Standard or accredited rural school in all of Georgia’s 159 counties.

It is now vacant - no children stream through its wide front doors - but at one time its enrollment went as high as 180, and it was the social center for the whole vast district of Rockville.

Back near the close of the last century little schools were scattered all over that section of the county - and the need was felt for one central school. So a three room school was built originally right in the center of the district.

In 1889, over the foundation of the original school (and using part of it in the building) the large, two-storey structure was built that was to become so well known in the history of education in Georgia. And in 1890 the scattered small schools of the district were consolidated into the one plant.

As the school grew, prospered, a community built right up around the schoolhouse, and the town of Rockville literally grew from the building of the school.

The Rockville School boasted a large auditorium on the second floor - and the slanted floor for the audience, the stage with its acetelyn footlights, and the box office seemed so modern in that day that Rockville had plays and entertainments and even drew chataquas.

The old curtain with its vividly colored signs advertising Eatonton and Putnam business concerns still falls gently though dustily to the floor. Behind this curtain is the first curtain from the old Bowdoin Theater in Boston which was donated by a friend of the school in the theatrical business.

Soon after the opening of the school house Professor Branch came to Rockville, and taught there as head of the faculty for 23 years. Many, many people from the Western section of the county went to school under Professor Branch. At one time the faculty had 5 members, and there was even a well-equipped kitchen for the girls to learn homemaking the first Home-Ec classes in the state.

In the meantime a teacher’s home was built for Professor Branch (now the home of Mrs. Carter) and several houses went up in the town. A large store was built to serve the area and was known as Branch, DeJarnette and Gregory and was run by Mr. Jim Gregory. This store sold everything from buggies to coffins and even had the Post Office.

From Rockville one can go on to Oconee Springs or around the Eight Mile circuit. On this famed circuit was found some of the loveliest homes in Putnam - the homes of the DeJarnettes (who owned Oconee Springs) Cumberland lodge and many others.

Today there is nothing left but pine trees and broom straw and the circular eight mile road.

In Rockville, also, is St. Paul’s Methodist Church, which is in excellent repair. It is a church of unique architecture with its one single column and its three front doors. St. Paul’s was actually moved in 1896 from the area near the Rockville fire tower (where the old St. Paul burying ground may still be found) and rebuilt at its present location next door to the school. Pierce Harris, the well known Atlanta Methodist pastor, joined the church there - and services are held regularly in the lovely old white walled structure.

Dr. and Mrs. Pinkerton still live in Rockville, where they have spent their 64 years of married life. For many years Dr. Pinkerton practiced medicine there and they have watched Rockville grow and then slowly fade away. Across from them is the old blacksmith shop which was converted into a home by the Bob Whites. But it, too, is vacant now that they Whites have moved into theie new home after a lifetime in Rockville. The Jones house is still occupied, as is the teacher’s house, but most of the residents have left. Their exodus stated in the 1920s when the boll weevil hit Putnam, and has continued ever since.

After the boll weevil arrived, and the people began to move to other places - the enrollment at Rockville School dropped until there wee only 6 pupils. The last teacher was Mrs. Helen Veal, and in 1943 the proud old school finally closed its doors from lack of scholars.

But even today, with a little repair and a lot of paint, the Rockville School would still make a good school house - and carry out its proud heritage of three firsts in educations.

A Marker of the Georgia Historical Association is in front of the weather - beaten old building with its vacant, echoing class rooms, which tell part of its history. Beside the school is graceful old St. Paul’s and around the curve and down the straight road lie the houses of Rockville itself, a town that was built around a school (Eatonton Messenger, August 25, 1960).

Rockville School and the plantation house at Turwold Plantation (Figure 81) represent two surviving local area structures presently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Turnwold Plantation was the location of the Civil War-era The Countryman newspaper published by Joseph Turner and is associated with writer Joel Chandler Harris. The National Register documentation for Rockville Academy provides additional history of the Rockville Community and also provides information for the churches once located along Highway 16 to the west of the project area. According to that document, the church known as Enterprise (see 1878 map of Putnam County) was constructed by William and Kinchen Little in 1871. The church assumed the name St. Paul in 1879. The church was later moved near Rockville School as mentioned in the earlier newspaper article.
New Rockville also contained the resort known Oconee Springs (Figure 82). Oconee Springs thrived during the period of Rockville’s resurgence (Walters 1995:357).
**Flat Rock** is a local landmark represented by an extensive granite outcrop or exposure which has always been something of a natural curiosity. Flat Rock is located in the northwestern portion of the project area in Land Lots 447 and 457 (see Figure 58). The boundaries of the exposure appear on each of the 1805 plats with the description "Rock about one mile in circumference" (Figure 83). The illustrated plat for Lot 447 was drawn by John Marcus of Hancock County with the notation "who it is stated is dead." Adjoining fractional Lot 457 was purchased by Greene Simms of Greene County.

![Figure 83. Copy of 1805 land grant plat showing the large rock outcrop which is now known as Flat Rock.](image)

Our research has produced no evidence of late eighteenth or early nineteenth century explorations of the natural feature. There is no mention of the feature in the work of C.C. Jones who investigated the rock effigy mound on a short distance away in 1877. The 1878 Putnam County map labels it as Cedar Rock. Local historian Katherine Walters provides only a few details concerning the Putnam County Flat Rock (Walters 1995:9). The area was used for picnicking but was overshadowed by the Easter Monday celebrations at the Flat Rock in Greene County (Walters 1995:178).

Several newspaper accounts were found while researching the Little Rock Eagle effigy mound for this project. The following are presented in chronological order. The first was taken from a local column written for the Harrison Community. It represents a good description of late nineteenth century activities and relates the problems involved in traversing the old roads.

*Nearly all the young folks in the Pea Ridge attended the Flat Rocks picnic Saturday, and enjoyed themselves immensely. Those who attended were: J.G. Clopton with Miss Effie Montgomery, J.M Rosser with Miss Tommie Holloman, Howell Winsletter with Miss Carrie Holloman, J.B. Hoolman with Miss Lula Knight, and the "Pea Ridge wagonette," containing Misses Berta and Stella Knight, Mattie and Edna Johnson, Katie Melton and Annie Kate Bustin, and Messrs. Ed McLeroy, Robert Reddick and Price Johnson. Others who attended were Charles and Evan Vaughn, Robert and Fletcher Melton, Marshall Bustin, Edgar Lewis and wife, Arthur Clements and wife and Mrs. T.F. Lopez. The wagon party were well jolted during the ten mile ride, and consequently felt exceedingly thankful when Mr. S.B. Jones announced dinner, then Oh! the baskets that were brought forth and the contents thereof that were spread out would have satisfied the most fastidious appetite. The scenery on the Rock is picturesque; there are crevices in which beautiful oaks are growing, the cool spring, bubbling up from a rock and surrounded by a grove of trees. The ice lemonade sold by J.T. Lewis was very refreshing. When the sun, sinking into the west, warned us that it was time to go, we turned our backs on this delightful spot with a sigh, and resolved that Providence permitting, we would return next year (Eatonton Messenger, May 20, 1899).*
A brief description of Flat Rock was given in a 1937 tour guide column for the county called “Interesting Places.” The piece was written at a time when all Putnam County landmarks were being promoted to visitors. The article refers to the many legends related to Indians but unfortunately does not include any details.

On the Sparta road approximately 13 miles east of Eatonton is “Little Stone Mountain” or Flat Rock a vast expansion of rock that very few people of the state have ever heard about. Acres and acres of solid rock reminds one of the Rocky Mountains. Because of its distance from the railroads, very little use has ever been made of this huge amount of rock. Hundreds of legends have been handed down relative to the Indian’s life around this section (Eatonton Messenger, February 18, 1937).

The following article entitled "Rocks" was written by Rosa Jones in 1938. It represents the earliest mention of some of the legends associated with the feature.

This article is not to be on rocks in general, but on the rocks of Rockville, Putnam County, Georgia. On the other hand, some statements may apply to rocks in general.

The fact that rocks are so numerous makes the appellation, Rockville, a most appropriate one. Fields, hills, valleys are teeming with rocks. As if these were not enough there is one of the largest solid rocks known in this same village. It is called "Flat Rock" and is quite a picturesque place, being visited by natives and tourists. A great portion of the rock is perfectly level and gives one a feeling of vastness to gaze on the gray stone as far as eye can reach. On one edge, however, it forms a steep hillside as it slopes down to a winding stream of water. This immense stone has served as a picnicking rock (not ground) for innumerable years. It also affords unusual background for getting one's "beauty struck." A favorite spot to pose is on the devil's pulpit, a high structure or rock on the flat rock. The devil's track, a considerably large piece of soil creeping through the stones in the shape of a foot, is also viewed with interest. A nearby plot of land furnishes clear, cool water for refreshment, not to mention the stately trees promising shade and the prolific blossoming flowers in the springtime to lure one onward. To sum up, flat rock is the place to go for adventure (Eatonton Messenger, April 28, 1938).

The editor of the local newspaper wrote a column in 1950 with the title "Flat Rock's Beauty Unknown to Many." The article stressed the importance of the area as a tourist attraction. Note the references to the rock effigy mound.

Sunday we attended something of family reunion down at Flat Rock. Practically everyone there wondered why the editor has not given this beauty spot more publicity and why the county has not developed it more.

In the first place, Flat Rock is not to be confused with the community of the same name down in the southern part of the county. This Flat Rock is just as the name implies - a large acreage of solid rock located near the bend of the Oconee river just above the new bridge. Added to the potential value is the fact that the Rock Eaglet lies just a few hundred yards from this spanse of stone.

To reach the picturesque spot one has only to take the paved Eatonton-Sparta highway and drive out about 12 miles to the home of Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Lewis. About a quarter of a mile below their home you take the left hand road and drive about a half a mile further and take another left. In short only about a half a mile from the paved highway is the Rock Eaglet and a few hundred yards further is the big rock.

We hear that Putnam's county commissioners are planning to give the road that leads to the spot a good working soon. When they do, some organization should erect signs leading people to Flat Rock.

If you have never been there, by all means drive out Sunday. It is a fine place for a picnic with plenty of nice shade and a good spring handy. You can walk over the acres of rock and occasionally you reach a spot that resembles the Rocky Mountains. There will be huge boulders jutting up and big cracks in the rock. There are all kinds of legends about fox hounds getting trapped in some of the big caves. About the place time has cut huge bowls in the rock and pretty little pools of crystal clear water stand. Near these grows all kinds of pretty moss.
Next Sunday if you haven’t anything to do, drive out and look at the new Oconee River Bridge and then drop over and see the Rock Eaglet. Dr. Kelly and his students have cleaned off this spot well. Then drive on down and walk over Flat Rock. If you have any kick about your trip, call the Messenger office and apologies will be in order (Eatonton Messenger, May 4, 1950).

The following was written by Rockville resident Mrs. Bob White in 1961.

I must hurry on - only two more houses on the Circuit road before you reached the village - but there were several families living back from the road. Turning at the Chapman house you went back toward the Oconee river, passing the old Lewis place - turning to the right to go to the K.D. Little plantation - but right here I’m going to let spring in the air lead me to where the second picnic of the season was an annual event always in May.

Instead of tuning to the right at the old Lewis place, you continue almost to the river, now Lake Sinclair until you come to Flat Rock - locally called the "ten acre rock" to distinguish it from the Flat Rock near Waller’s Store. It was more popular with the Rockville folks than the Easter picnic at Beall’s mill for here the young folks from both Oconee and St. Paul Churches met and in that day both had the afternoon, the Methodist in thriving S.S.’s, the Baptist in the morning so all the young folks could attend both.

There was a green meadow to hitch the horses on, a cool spring close by it and the big flat surface of the rock an ideal place to spread lunch and afterwards to explore it’s vast area. On the top an enormous foot-print was deeply imbedded in the granite rock and directly across the river was another Rock in Greene County upon which there was the same sort of a print - the legend goes that the Devil fleeing from the volcanic upheaval in pre-historic days, placed one foot in Putnam, the other in Greene as he crossed the river. There was the Devil’s Pulpit - balcony-like rock formation - and innumerous shrubs and wild flowers in the crevices of the Rock - a grand place for a days outing (Mrs. Bob White, Eatonton Messenger, April 6, 1961).

The following was also written by Mrs. Bob White two years later and represents only a portion of a longer article.

The picnic held at Flat Rock each second Saturday in May didn’t date as far back perhaps as the Eastern picnic at Beall’s Mill but it surely drew a larger crowd in my girlhood and mainly from the Rockville community as it had an abundance of young folks then and young and old came in buggies and whole families came in wagons, for buggies were none too plentiful and quite expensive.

People from Greene county would come, crossing Oconee river in boats from their side of the river. I can imagine the distance - fifteen miles or more, kept Eatonton folks from attending as they did Beall’s Mill - only seven miles.

There were so many more places to explore at Flat Rock - such as the Devil’s Pulpit, a rock formation resembling the old fashioned on man pulpit that was placed above the congregation at the end of a church.

My mate said Crooked Creek Primitive Baptist Church had one in his days with steps leading up to it on both sides - then tracking the Devil’s footprints over the surface of the Rock where legend says he stepped from the Putnam side of the river over to the Greene county side where another track could be seen - all these are now covered up by undergrowth and it would take more than a picnic to trace them - they are in the vicinity of where the Indian mound resembling Rock Eagle in its formation was inspected and partial excavation started by the University system geologists.

Many wooded paths and a delicious spring right near where lunch was spread - all in all it was a much prettier place for a picnic than Beall’s Mill - at least for the young folks...(Eatonton Messenger, May 30, 1963).

A long time area resident, Mr. L.A. Copelan, related the stories about the devils footprint and pulpit but he was unable to provide an accurate location for the features (personal communication 2004). Further research is needed to discover the origins of other legends alluded to in the couple of tourism-oriented pieces above. There should be a number of Indian legends for the area.
Figure 84 shows Flat Rock as it appeared in an aerial photograph taken by Georgia Power in March 1976 (UGA Wallace Reservoir Files). The extent of the rock outcrop is clearly visible because most of the trees had been removed from the area. The logging roads, many of which followed existing roads and trails are clearly defined. Many of the roads visible in the photograph have been utilized for trails for the current project. The construction area around Wallace Dam is shown at the right side of the photograph. Highway 16 extends along the bottom of the photograph.
Early Settlers Associated with the Project Area

Most of the land grants for the project area date to 1805 when Baldwin County was established. The area was identified as District 2 of original Baldwin County. The majority of grants were land lots measuring 202 1/2 acres. These lots were drawn by the land lottery of 1805 (Wood 1964). There are several fractional lots near the Oconee River at the edge of the project area. Fractional lots were purchased by individuals directly from the state. Generally, the fractional lots were purchased by settlers who had received adjoining land lots during the lottery or owned property on the other side of the river. The previously illustrated composite map shows the locations of all land lot numbers for original Baldwin County (see Figure 58). Figure 85 shows a redrawing of the map with the names of the identified original grantees, the project trail, and a few modern landmarks.

Figure 85. Map showing owners of original land lots in and near the project area.
The Baldwin County composite map is a compilation of all individual land lot maps. At the time of the lottery, copies of plats were given to each recipient and the original was kept by the state. Mistakes sometimes occurred during the process of preparing the maps and others may have occurred during the copying process. Caution is always required when using these early maps. The name of the grantee was sometimes spelled incorrectly. The amount of detail shown on individual land grant plats varied from region to region and in the case of Baldwin County, a great amount of detail is not shown. The original plats are found in the loose plat files in the Office of the Surveyor General in the Georgia Department of Archives and History in Atlanta.

Not all recipients of original land grants actually took up residence in the area. Some of the grantees quickly sold the property while others eventually defaulted on taxes. Relatively few land records survive for the two year period prior to the establishment of Putnam County in 1807 to document the earliest land transactions. Fortunately, the names of the original grantees often appear on the early tax digests and frequently early deeds refer to the original grant in describing a piece property. Several of the Individuals listed as original grantees retained their property long enough to be considered the first white settlers associated with the project area. Table 4 lists the individuals named on the land grants and notes if they resided on the property for any length of time. The date of 1812 was arbitrarily selected.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Lot No.</th>
<th>Residence at Drawing</th>
<th>Resident ca 1812</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ford Butler</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Cooper</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>Hancock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Durham</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>Greene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Ferguson</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Fielder</td>
<td>455/456</td>
<td>Liberty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raleigh Holt</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>Baldwin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Langley</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>Richmond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Marcus est.</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>Hancock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederick Morris</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>Jefferson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Ousley</td>
<td>465/466</td>
<td>Greene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cader Powell</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>Hancock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greene Sims</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>Greene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General John Stewart</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>Ogelthorpe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Turner, Jr.</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>Hancock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert White</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>Burke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis Welliford</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>Tattnall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owen Williams</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannah Woods</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>Greene</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The land lots along the Oconee River were all fractional lots and thus were purchased by individuals with some interest in the river’s resources. In the case of individuals such as Richard Fielder, the fractional lots were needed to provide river frontage for an interior lot drawn in the lottery. Greene County resident Robert Ousley purchased two fractional lot grants (Nos. 465 and 466) in a highly productive shoals area. Figure 86 shows a plat of one of Ousley’s lots and the adjoining upstream lot (No. 467) which was granted to John Sturdevant of Hancock County.

Each of the plats shown in Figure 86 includes the precise location of an early mill site. Reed’s mill is shown on the Ousley lot and Mitchell’s on the Sturdevant lot. Wood (1992:117) states that the mill in Lot Number 466 probably belonged to Alexander Reed. Mitchell’s mill is probably associated with Henry Mitchell who owned property in the area at the time.

The illustrated plats are also important with respect to the fisheries that developed in this section of the Oconee. The earliest reference to a fishery near the upstream end of the big island appeared in a 1797 deed to Henry Mitchell (Greene County Deed Book P:270). The Yazoo Fishery was incorporated in 1813 and a plat apparently associated with that operation shows the names of two individuals associated with the project area (Greene County Plat Book A:226). The plat shown as Figure 87 shows the grantee as Michael Stinson and the adjoining property owner is General Stewart.

Figure 86. Two landgrant plats from the Shipley’s Shoals area showing mill sites.
The Yazoo Fishery and the Methodist Fishery are referenced in local history accounts (Raper 1943, Rice and Williams 1961:343, 475, Walters 1985:69) and in at least one archeological report (Wood 1992:117). Those authors seem to agree that the Methodist Fishery was located upstream from the mouth of Richland Creek while Yazoo Fishery was located just downstream from the mouth of that stream. Local tradition concerning the names of the two fisheries is presented in the History of Greene County. According to Rice the name Yazoo cut a big figure in Georgia at that time; and as Cracker’s Neck was a hot-bed for Methodism, they named their fishery for the Methodists. Some of the names of the share-holders in the Yazoo can be traced to Baptist and Presbyterian Churches, but the other seems to have been composed entirely of Methodists. Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians were not on the best terms back in those days - the Baptists and Presbyterians seemed to feel it their duty to combine against the Methodists (Rice and Williams 1961:476).

Aside from the plat shown in Figure 87 which contains the name Michael Stinson, our research has produced little additional information on the Yazoo Fishery. A search of published laws of Georgia failed produce any official act of incorporation.

The names of several families who settled during the first couple of decades have become particularly well associated with the history of area. The family names of which we are most familiar are Cooper, Stinson, and Fielder. Joseph Cooper has been previously discussed with respect to Cooper’s Bridge. The Stinson and Fielder families also established early plantations. Other early settlers who are less well known include Robert White, Richard Conine, Raleigh Holt, Greene Simms, General John Stewart, and Reuben Herndon. Kinchen Little, the most prominent resident arrived a few years later.

For this project, the chains of title have been established for the primary families known to have lived in the project area. Information for outlying families and people who may have purchased property for short periods or who were never residents has not been thoroughly researched and much of the available information has been taken from the tax digests. Information for each of the most important families will be presented in an effort to provide context for the archeological sites identified during the survey. The location of property owned by these individuals will be shown on a composite land lot map which shows the project trail and some modern landmarks.
The Cooper family appears to have moved to Putnam County from Hancock around 1810 and continued to acquire property until the late 1820s. Figure 88 shows the property purchased near the project area by the Cooper family. While a land grant was not found for Joseph Cooper it does appear that he was the original owner of Land Lot 443. The list of fortunate draws in the 1805 includes Joseph Cooper, Jr., of Hancock County. The tax digests for the period consistently list one lot for Joseph Cooper as being granted to “self.” The property eventually purchased by the Cooper’s included Land Lot (LL) 453 acquired from Joseph Turner, Jr., in 1811 (Deed Book C:217), LL 444 from William Thomas in 1811 (Deed Book C:216), LL 454 from Raleigh Holt in 1816 (Deed Book F:21), LL 445 from Robert White in 1818 (Deed Book N:166). According to Joseph Cooper’s estate records, there had been a prior arrangement for Land Lot 445 to be divided with the Fielder family (Putnam County Probate Office, Estate files for Richard Fielder). Joseph Cooper died in 1819 but his estate purchased an additional 227.5 acres in Land Lots 434 and 435 from Jeremiah Warren in 1827 (Deed Book N:47).

Figure 88. Location of property acquired by Cooper Family ca 1805-1830.
Joseph Cooper owned property in both Putnam and Hancock Counties and worked with a business partner by the name of Steven Weston. The two men were involved in business enterprises that included a toll bridge and grist mill. The early toll bridge crossed the Oconee River near the modern Highway 16 bridge (see earlier discussion in this chapter). Cooper's mill was located across the river in Hancock County. After Cooper's death in 1819, a description of his property appeared in a local newspaper (Figure 89).

A search of deeds and other public records produced little specific information for either the bridge or mill. The Putnam County Probate Office does not have an estate file for Joseph Cooper or his wife Martha. A couple of deeds from Hancock County dating to 1816 mention flooding of property around the mill pond on the Oconee (Hancock County Deed Books L:503 and M:118). Those deeds suggest that Cooper was enlarging the size of his milldam.

The 1812 tax digest lists Joseph Cooper with 380 acres of land in Putnam County and 10 slaves. The 1823 tax digest lists Joseph Cooper as deceased but Martha Cooper is listed with 303 3/4 acres of land and 15 slaves. Martha Cooper had apparently disposed of the bridge and mill and remained on the plantation home place. Her death notice stated that she had died on January 15, 1830 at her summer residence in Rockville (Hancock Advertiser, January 25, 1830). The home place tract was sold by Thomas Cooper and Stephen Weston as administrators of the estate of Martha Cooper to William McKinley in 1830. That deed described the property as 303 3/4 acres in Land Lot 444 and the south half of LL 445.

Land Lot 444 represents the location of an antebellum structure identified during the current project as archeological site 9PM1411. The location conforms with the placement of the “Cooper Place” shown on the 1878 Putnam County map. A cemetery was also identified nearby but there were no marked stones. A structure of unknown age survived on the lot until the mid twentieth century along with several tenant houses (see Figure 88). The structure identified as 9PM1411 likely represents the plantation house of William McKinley. Additional research will be needed to determine if the structure was originally constructed by Joseph Turner.

A comment is necessary with respect to one historical account of the Cooper House. In the late 1930s, local newspaper columns by B.A. Bustin mistakenly referred to the Kinchen D. Little house as originally being the Cooper house. An excerpt from one of those columns follows.

*As we journey down the Oconee River we come to Little’s Ferry on the Sparta Highway between Eatonton and Sparta. Joseph Cooper and his nephew, Mark A. Cooper, settled in Putnam County in 1809, moving there from Powelton in 1809.*

*Joseph Cooper settled about one mile from the ferry and built a fine old mansion which is still standing, now known as the old K.D. Little Home. This old mansion is still in very good repair, the floors, very little worn, are the original floors placed there when the mansion was erected. It is now owned by Mr. J.P. Holder and family, who live in this historic old home (Greensboro Herald-Journal, September 9, 1938).*
It is probable that all of the information in Bustin’s account refers to the Kinchen Little house and not the Cooper house. Additional information will be presented in the site description of 9PM1411 in Chapter 6 of this report.

Robert White received Land Lot 446 in the 1805 lottery and eventually acquired other property during the early years of Putnam County (Figure 90). White purchased LL 456 and smaller lots 464 and 465 in 1810 (Putnam County Deed Books E:50 and E:51). The three lots, which had been lost by Richard Fielder in the Liberty County courts, were bought by White for $18.00. At the time of the 1805 lottery, White was living in Burke County. He may have moved to Putnam County at an early date but that fact has not been ascertained. Frances Wynd’s (n.d.:47) compilation of slave owners for Putnam County in 1810 does not list Robert White. According to Gardner (1995:13) White was still living in Burke County in 1810 but Deed Book E:50 does list him as a Putnam County resident. Robert White is listed in the local Putnam County tax district in 1812 and 1813. At that time he owned 405 acres of land listed as LL445 granted to Butler and LL 446 granted to himself. He is listed as owning seven slaves at that time.

Figure 90. Location of property acquired by Robert White prior to 1818.
Robert White sold his property beginning in 1816. He sold LL456 back to the Fielder family in 1816 (Deed Book E:54), LL446 to Kinchen Little on November 20, 1818 (Deed Book H:446), and LL 445 to Joseph Cooper on December 1, 1818 (Deed Book N:166). White apparently moved westward at that point because later tax digests no longer list him in the area. If White actually lived on the property, his house would have been on either LL445 or 446.

Richard Fielder drew Land Lot 455 in the 1805 and purchased fractional lots 456, 463, and 464 from the State of Georgia (Figure 91). Fielder died by 1816 and his wife Elizabeth continued the operation of the plantation for a number of years. As previously noted, Fielder lost the three fractional lots to Robert White but the family eventually bought back the property (Deed Book E:54). The northern half of LL445 was acquired from the Cooper family around 1818 (Putnam County Probate Office, Fielder estate records). Based on available information, the core area known as the Fielder Place consisted of Land Lots 455, 464, and part of 445 as shown on a 1907 plat (Figure 92).

Figure 91. Location of property acquired by Fielder family beginning in 1805.
Figure 92. Copy of a 1907 plat of the “Fielder & Little Place” (Putnam County Deed Book F:495).
Traditionally, rural property in the south retains a name that is associated with a former prominent owner. In this respect, the Fielder Plantation tract remained intact as a piece of property until the early twentieth century. Kinchen Little acquired the property at some point prior to the Civil War and he willed it to one of his sons at his death. The property was referred to as the “Littleton Little Place” formerly the “Fielder Place” in a 1888 transaction and the combined name was used afterwards. The deed does not indicate that Littleton L. Little resided on the tract (Putnam County Deed Book A:96). A significant amount of background information on the Fielder family was compiled for the prior archeological investigations at site 9PM990 which was identified by the name Fielder-Little Farmstead (Gardner 1995). Gardner traced the Fielder family ownership of the property from the original acquisition until the 1840s. After that time, the chain of title was lost until 1888 when a piece of property was sold by the name of the Littleton Little and Fielder Place (Putnam County Deed Book L:54). Interpretations presented in that report that site 9PM990 was occupied by by Kinchen D. Little are inaccurate Gardner 1995:19).

Because of financial problems, Richard Fielder sold his property to his mother-in-law Amelia Burford in 1806 (Deed Book B:14). Fielder reclaimed his property after her death in 1814 when the property was willed to his wife. The 1812 tax digests shows Richard Fielder as agent for Amelia Burford who owned 250 3/4 acres of land in Putnam County and 17 slaves. The property was rented for a brief period following his death but eventually taken over by Elizabeth (Gardner 1995:15).

The estate records for Richard Fielder include an inventory or appraisement which includes a list of possessions at the time of his death (Putnam County Probate Office, Estate Records for Richard Fielder, Record Book B, Folio 41). The document lists the names of his slaves and provides some indication of the types of material goods owned by the plantation owner of the period (Figure 93).

![Figure 93. Copy of a 1816 appraisement of the property of Richard Fielder.](image)
During research on the earlier study of 9PM990, the Fielder’s were traced through 1850 using the tax digests and other sources of information (Gardner 1995:17). Elizabeth Fielder’s Putnam County property gradually increased to 500 acres and the number of slaves owned increased to 40 in 1844. Elizabeth Fielder moved to Eatonton in 1840 where she died in 1850 (Gardner 1995:17). The 1840 tax digest for the 307th District listed a T. Johnson as agent for Elizabeth Fielder suggesting that he was managing the plantation. No deed has been found for the sale of the property but subsequent land transactions show that the property was acquired by Kinchen Little. Following several transfers among Little family members, the Fielder place house site was purchased by C. Beman Little in 1909 (Putnam County Deed Book F:493). C.B. Little retained the property until 1926 (Deed Book K:514).

Gardner’s conclusion that site 9PM990 was occupied by Littleton L. Little is supported only by a 1909 notation by County Clerk Robert A. Reid, who states that “he visited L.L. Little in 1866 and he was then living on the 908 acres of land and had been living there for some years (Stubbs 1934:5). The 908 acre tract of land would have been acquired from his father Kinchen Little, probably after 1865. L.L. Little disposed of the property to his brothers K.D. Little and F.M. Little in 1871 (Deed Book B:30). An examination of the 1860 census list suggests that L.L. Little was probably living several houses away from the location at that time. If he did live on the property, it would have been for only a few years.

As noted, the Fielder place has been previously investigated and recorded as 9PM990. The previously recorded site boundaries are much too small for a plantation operated by as many as 40 slaves. 9PM990 was revisited during the present project and the site area has been expanded. No indication of a cemetery was found during either project which may be evidence that the large cemetery located near the Kinchen Little house (9PM1392) served as a community cemetery. Otherwise, the Fielder plantation cemetery remains unaccounted for in the area.

The Stinson family is thought to be one of the first settlers in the project area simply because William Stinson died in 1806 at the age of 44 and is buried in the Stinson/Little Cemetery on LL 4446 (site 9PM1392). William Stinson acquired the Powell grant (LL436) but a deed has not been located (Figure 94). The Stinsons acquired the upper portion of LL424 and a couple of acres in LL 425 in 1815 from James Waller (Putnam County Deed Book D:132). The 1813 tax digest lists Catherine Stinson as owning 202 ½ acres and 12 slaves.

After Catherine’s death in 1815, the property was willed to son Michael Stinson, Jr. and daughters Christine and Anna. The 303-acre estate of William and Catherine Stinson was soon sold to Kinchen Little (Deed Book H:215). Little had married daughter Christine in 1816 (Putnam Marriage Book B:52). The estate records contain several important references to Kinchen Little which relate to the beginnings of his plantation (Figures 95 and 96). Little began by renting property from the Stinsons and upon the death of Catherine he inherited several slaves. The purchase of the William Stinson farm occurred at the same time as the purchase of LL446 from Robert White. That was the beginning of Little’s plantation - landholdings which eventually grew to nearly 5000 acres in Putnam and Hancock Counties.

![Figure 94. Locations of Stinson property ca 1805-1840.](image-url)
Figure 95. Copy of a 1819 court order dividing the estate of William and Catherine Stinson.
Michael Stinson apparently purchased LL438 at some point after the death of Catherine Stinson. A deed of purchase for LL438 was not found but the lot was sold by the estate of Michael Stinson to Joseph Johnson in 1829 (Deed Book M:455). Michael Stinson appears to have died in 1826 (Marshall 1995:1). The 1828 tax digest shows Z. Edmondson as administrator of the estate of Michael Stinson, Jr., with 16 slaves and LL 438. Estate records for the Stinson family list Martha Ann Matilda Stinson as a minor child from 1829 to 1839 (Putnam County Probate Office, Stinson files).
The records for Michael Stinson are confusing because there were two Michael Stinsons living in the area. Michael Stinson, Sr., purchased lot 456 from Elizabeth Fielder in 1816 (Deed Book E:54, Book L:21). At the time of the 1816 transaction, Stinson was living on the lot. The 1813 tax digest lists Stinson on LL456 with six slaves. The 1823 tax digest is confusing in that it lists Michael Stinson, Sr., as owning two tracts of land and 15 slaves. One of those tracts would have been LL456 but the second appears to be the lot apparently owned by Michael Stinson, Jr. The next identified deed was dated 1837 when the estate of Michael Stinson sold the property nearest the river to Lemuel Lancaster (Deed Book P:130). Lancaster sold part (or all) of the same property to Kinchen Little in 1847 (Deed Book R:4).

With respect to archeological sites on Stinson lots, the original William and Catherine Stinson house was not identified and it was probably located south of the project area. One site (9PM1399) was found in LL456 and a small cemetery (unmarked graves) was found near the corner of that lot (9PM1409). The lot owned briefly by Michael Stinson, Jr., (LL438) lay outside the survey area.

There were other early landowners identified in the records of the project area. These individuals included Raleigh Holt (LL454), Richard Conine (LL437), John Stewart (LL448), Greene Sims (LL457), and James Cummings (also LL457). Figure 97 shows the properties owned by these individuals.

Figure 97. Locations of lots of other early landowners associated with the project area.
Some of these individuals have been mentioned with respect to the previously discussed property owners. Raleigh Holt received an original grant for Land Lot 454 and sold the property to Joseph Cooper in 1816 (Putnam County Deed Book F:21). During the same year, Holt sold Cooper 187 acres on the river in Hancock County (Hancock County Deed Book L:506). Holt’s name does appear in the district tax digest for 1812 with the lot adjoining Cooper and four slaves. Raleigh Holt’s name does appear in a list of slave owners for Putnam County in 1810. Holt owned 11 slaves at that time (Wynd n.d.:47). Additional research is needed to determine if Holt actually lived on the property prior to Cooper’s acquisition in 1816. Land Lot 454 lay outside the boundaries of the present project but the lot does contain much of the older DNR trail.

Richard Conine acquired the Hannah Woods lot (LL 437) at an early date but no deed has been found. The 1812 tax digests lists Conine as the owner of LL437 with no slaves. Conine is listed in the 1832 tax digest as the owner of the same tract and seven slaves. Conine sold the southern portion of the lot to Cordy Bachelor in 1836 (Deed Book O:443). The eastern portion of the lot was eventually purchased by Kinchen Little. During the current survey, historic site 9PM1396 was located within the southern portion of LL437. Another house site identified as 9PM1398 was located near the boundary of LL437 and LL447.

John Stewart drew Land Lot 448 in the 1805 state lottery and he is shown as a property owner as late as 1820s. Stewart purchase fractional lots 465 and 466 from Robert Ousley in 1809 (Deed Book D:65). He also purchased LL 459 from original grantee Gilbert Shaw (Deed Book E:327). He does not appear in the local tax digests and the deeds consistently list him as a resident of Oglethorpe County. The Oglethorpe County cemetery inventory lists General John Stewart in Stevens Cemetery with a death date of 1830. According to the inscribed stone, Stewart’s rank was captain during the Revolutionary War and general during the War of 1812 (Historic Oglethorpe County, Inc. 1995:199). The 1805 land grant lists him by the name of General John Stewart.

General Stewart sold all of his property to Amos Ward in 1823 (Deed Book K:269). Most of the property became part of the S.J. Owens tract in later years and later the Adams family. The property associated with the project area eventually became part of a tract known as the W.F. Jenkins’ property in the latter part of the nineteenth century (M:258).

Greene Sims was the original grantee of Land Lot 457. The property was apparently sold for taxes about ten years later. Sims is not listed in the local tax digests during the period. The land was bought by James Cummings in 1815 (Putnam County Deed Book E:80). Cummings’ name appears in the district tax digest for 1812 as the owner of one slave but no property. Subsequent tax digests for 1823 and 1825 lists Cummings with 202 acres of land and a single slave. He lived on the property long enough for it to become known as the Cummings Lot in later deeds. The Cummings tract was acquired by Kinchen Little in 1829 from Sheriff Thomas Hardeman (Deed Book N:41) and remained in the family until 1871 when it was sold to Seaborn J. Owens who owned the adjoining plantation (Putnam County Deed Book y:406). The 1871 deed lists adjoining property owners as Greene Moore, Atwood, and L.L. Little. The house of S.A. Owens is indicated on the 1878 Putnam County map slightly west of the project area. At a later date, the Cummings’ Place was absorbed into the W.F. Jenkins property (Deed Book M:258). The current survey identified one historic site within LL457 (9PM216) and another on the boundary of LL457 and LL 447 (9PM140).

The Marcus family is represented in the project area by an original land grant (LL 447) and by deed transactions dating to the 1820s and 1830s. A notation included on the original grant for LL447 states that John Marcus is listed as deceased. The 1832 tax digest lists Martha B. Marcus and a minor named Harriot Marcus as owners of a portion of the lot with a total of 12 slaves. The lot was sold to Joseph Johnson in 1833 as three separate deeds from Martha Marcus, Hannah Marcus, and J. Bass (Deed Book O:142-144). The archeological survey identified historic site 9PM1395 in LL447 and sites 9PM140, 9PM1398, and 9PM1409 at the boundaries of the land lot.

A second Marcus by the name of William E. is listed in the 1823 tax digest as owner of the original grant of Lewis Williford (LL 458). According to Deed Book I:275, Marcus purchased half of LL 458 from Jacob Moreman in 1821. William E. Marcus is listed in the district tax digest for 1832 as the owner of one slave but no land. Marcus sold that lot to Amos Ward in 1823 (Deed Book K:267). The lot was purchased by S.J. Owens during the second half of the nineteenth century and afterwards became part of the Adams tract. The lot is located outside the boundaries of the archaeological survey.
Antebellum and Postbellum Plantations Associated with the Project Area.

The most significant historical events associated with the project area appear to be related to the plantations of William McKinley, Kinchen Little, and W.F. Jenkins. Limited information is available for the McKinley plantation (1832 to 1862). Substantially more information is available for the Little family Plantation (ca 1818 to 1916). The Jenkins tract is a much later farm of limited significance.

William McKinley purchased a portion of the old Joseph Cooper place in 1830 from the family estate (Putnam County Deed Book N:294). The small plantation consisted of only 303 3/4 acres in lots 444 and 445 (Figure 98). McKinley retained his plantation for about three decades while all the surrounding land was being acquired by Kinchen Little. The McKinley family is listed in the district tax digests from 1832 through 1862. The 1832 and the 1844 tax digest lists McKinley with a total of only 3 slaves. The slave total increased to only four in 1844. William’s son, Hugh S. McKinley, is listed with one slave but no property in 1855.

The 1850 census lists William McKinley (age 71) with a son by the name of Hugh S. McKinley in the household. The 1860 census lists Hugh McKinley as the head of household. Assuming that William McKinley died during the 1850s, it is possibly that he is buried in the cemetery identified near site 9PM990. The 1862 tax digest list Hugh McKinley with the same amount of property and a total of five slaves. Hugh McKinley sold the property to Kinchen Little in 1863 (Deed Book S:223).

The location of the McKinley house is referenced in later deeds by name as archeological site 9PM1411 (Deed Book F:242). A 10-acre lot surrounding the McKinley house is shown on plats produced by Georgia Power in the late 1920s. The location was inspected during the current project and found to contain evidence of both antebellum and postbellum construction. The site was recorded as 9PM1411. The “old cemetery” shown on the early twentieth century plats was also found but no marked stones remained. The cemetery has been disturbed in the past by logging.

Kinchen Little began acquiring property in the area prior to 1820 and eventually developed one of the largest antebellum plantations in Putnam County. Figure 99 shows the total extent of property owned by Little based on our current research. He also owned several hundred acres on the Oconee River in Hancock County (Hancock County Deed Book O:186). The 1862 tax digest listed Little with 3900 acres of land in Putnam County and 101 slaves. Kinchen Little died in 1865 and is buried in the family cemetery within the project area. Little began distributing land to his sons prior to his death and divided the remainder to his wife Christine and the other children at the time of his death. The property most associated with the project area was retained by his wife and then passed on to her son Kinchen D. Little. The last surviving Little plantation owner was Forrester Little (son of K.D. Little). During the 1930s and 1940s, the farm was known as the J.P. Holder place.
Figure 99. Map showing the Putnam County property of Kinchen Little in 1862.
Kinchen Little’s name appeared in local record in 1816 when he married Christine Stinson, the daughter of William and Catherine Stinson (Putnam County Marriage Book B:52). Little was apparently living on the Stinson farm at that time. County records show that he was renting farmland from the Stinson family in 1818 (see Figure 96). Little purchased the 303 acre estate of William and Catherine Stinson on October 17, 1818 (Deed Book H:215). Little’s next land purchase was on November 20, 1818 when he purchased the adjoining LL446 from Robert White (Deed Book H:216). These two tracts (Figure 100) are listed in the 1825 tax digest, along with 17 slaves.

An interesting legend exists concerning Kinchen Little’s arrival in Putnam County. The story is told by B.A. Bustin who grew up in the eastern part of Putnam County in the latter part of the nineteenth century (Figure 101). Bustin’s story is also recounted in the biography of Charles Edgar Little who was a grandson of Kichen Little and a boyhood friend of Bustin (Baird 1949:5).

Figure 100. Map showing the extent of the Kinchen Little Plantation in 1825.
Figure 101. B.A. Bustin’s newspaper account of the arrival of Kinchen Little in Putnam County (Eatonton Messenger, November 21, 1938)
Bustin’s story of Kinchen Little emerging from the swamp wearing a high silk hat and patent leather shoes and meeting his future wife is an intriguing story. Unfortunately, Bustin confuses several details with respect to individuals and places. He refers to the original Kinchen Little as Kinchen Davis Little and he states that the old Cooper house became the Little House. The reference to the wrong Kinchen Little is a minor mistake but the conclusion that the Cooper house and the Little house are the same is more critical. Kinchen Little did not purchase the property containing the Cooper house until 1862 (Deed Book S:223). Kinchen Little was well established on his home place lot (No. 446) by the 1820s and we know that Martha Cooper lived at her house until her death in 1830 (Hancock Advertiser, January 25, 1830). Bustin’s description of the Little family cemetery is also confusing.

Baird (1949:6) states that Kinchen Little’s father arrived in Georgia from North Carolina following the Revolutionary War. Frederick Little settled and died in Washington County. His widow, Nancy Little later purchased land in Baldwin County near Milledgeville. Nancy Little’s second child was Kinchen Little (Baird 1949:6). Baird’s primary source of information was found in the family letters and unpublished family genealogy notes in possession of Mrs. J.T. McCary of Nashville, Tennessee who was a daughter of Charles E. Little (Baird 1949:2). A search of the Charles E. Little files, library of George Peabody College for Teachers, failed to produce any of the McCary documents mentioned by Baird (Teresa Gray, Archivist, Special Collections, Jean and Alexander Heard Library, Vanderbilt University, personal communication 2004).

Kinchen Little gradually added to his landholdings during the 1830s and 1840s. The 1832 tax digest lists Little with 935 ½ acres and 23 slaves and by the time of the 1844 tax digest Little had accumulated 1400 acres of land and 46 slaves. Little also acquired land across the river in Hancock County. Little purchased 556 acres from George L. Scott near Shoulderbone Creek in 1833 (Hancock County Deed Book O:186). Little’s property reached 3900 acres in 1852 when it remained until 1863 when he purchased the McKinley tract. During that time the number of slaves increased from 80 to 101. It is possible that some of the slaves listed on the 1862 tax digest were living on other property owned by Little. The 1860 Putnam County tax digest lists Kinchen Little as the owner of 91 slaves living in 15 dwellings.

The Little plantation grew as the older plantations owned by the Cooper, Fielder, and other families were absorbed. Most of these transactions have been noted earlier. Other recorded land purchases included LL 425 from Jarrard Turner in 1837 (Deed Book P:62). 355 acres from Farish Carter in 1837 (Deed Book P:62). 393 acres from Robert A. Ladd in 1858 (Deed Book S:63). One particularly large acquisition occurred in 1851 when Little purchased 2140 acres from James Ranson (Putnam County Deed Book R:293). That large tract represents the southern half of the plantation illustrated in Figure 99. The tract extended along the Oconee River from just above Warren’s Ferry to Little’s property near Little’s Ferry. The property extended to the west and generally followed the route of an old road known at the time as the Milledgeville Road. According to Walters (1995:264), the 1860 tax digest valuation of Little’s property and possessions was $130,854 which made him the second wealthiest man in Putnam County.

Kinchen Little sold the large southern tract to his son William F. Little in 1863 (Deed Book S:464). He also sold the northern and eastern portions of his plantation to son Littleton L. Little, although a deed was not found. The property is referenced a few years later in 1871 when the land was sold by L.L. Little to his brothers K.D. and F.M. Little (Deed Book B:30). Little sold the home place lot of 890.5 acres to son Kinchen D. Little in 1864 (Deed Book S:375). That deed refers to a survey and presumed plat made by land surveyor J.L. Turner on April 13, 1864. The plat was not located during our search.

Kinchen Little died in 1865 and he left a very detailed will, dated August 7, 1863 (Putnam County Probate Office, Will Book C:83). His will lists the names of slaves, and a variety of possessions such as livestock and farm implements. Figure 102 shows the first portion of the will (Page 1 and beginning of Page 2) of the will relating to his wife Christine. It is apparent from his will that Little saw Christine as the person who would run the plantation after his death. The remainder of the will consists primarily of monetary figures bequeathed to various his children and grandchildren.

Christine Little also left a will which was dated June 25, 1873 (Will Book C:179). Christine divided her still sizable estate between her surviving sons and daughters and grandchildren.
I, Kinchen Little, of said County, being of sound and disposing mind and memory, do make this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all other testamentary acts made by me.

Now first, I give and bequeath unto my wife one thousand (1000) acres of land in said County, lying around and including my homestead, East and West, East and West, and all off and adjacent thereto. I also give and bequeath unto her the following negroes, to wit: Sam Seers, Julia, Tom, Eugene, Daniel, Jerry, Alie, Belze, Virginia, Betty, Daniel, Mary, Abner, Andrew, Charles, W. F. Ford, and George Tisdell. I also give and bequeath unto her, during her natural life, the following negroes, Tom, Walter, Turner, Fanning, and All, a slave boy. I also give and bequeath unto her fifty-five (55) shares of the capital stock of the Cotton, Branch, Rail Road held by me, and I hereby direct the same, after my death, to be transferred to her upon the stocks of said Corporation. I also give and bequeath unto her eighteen (18) mules, three horses, and two mules—all to be selected by herself, also two horse wagons and harness, two two horse wagons and harness, one ox wagon and harness, one ox wagon and four oxen to be selected by herself, one carriage and harness, one single buggy and harness, one double buggy and harness, fifty head of stock bovines and twenty-five head of cows. To select by herself, all the stock in my possession at death, one syrup mill, fixtures and boilers, all guns and shotguns in my possession at death, all iron, steel, fellows, plow gear, axes, and tools in any possession at death, all looms, spinning wheels, and cotton cards owned by me, together with spinning cotton enough for one year, all my cows, joiner, blacksmith, and spinning tools, and enough provisions of all kinds for one year's support of two self and negroes.

Figure 102. Portion of the will of Kinchen Little (August 7, 1863)
There are no records of Civil War skirmishes directly affecting the people of the project area (see Chapter 1). Kinchen Little did lose two sons during that war. Algernon Little died from wounds received at Alleghany Mountain in 1861. An obituary written by Joseph Turner is shown in Figure 103. Later accounts mistakenly place Algernon's place of battle at Kennesaw Mountain (Memoirs of Georgia 1895:732). A second son, James Little, was killed during the Seven Day's battle near Richmond in 1862. Both are buried in the Little family cemetery in the project area. Another son, L.L. Little is listed in the muster roll of the Putnam Light Infantry (Thomas 1903:300).

According to Walters (1995:256), Kinchen Little was one of eleven major planters in Putnam County in 1860 in terms of acreage. According to Walters data, Little was the only planter of that status in the Rockville District. Little’s plantation would have been more like a small town than a farm at that time. While we have no actual description of his plantation of the period, there are descriptions of others which allow us to envision the types of structures and activities that would have taken place there. One local plantation formerly owned by A.A. Kimbrough was located across the river in Greene County. The plantation was described more than fifty years ago in a newspaper article by T.B. Rice.

Back in the “slavery days” the Kimbrough home and surroundings looked like a small village. Around the “Big House” were clustered slave “quarters” weave house, doctor’s office, the plantation required the entire time of the doctor, a shoe makers shop, blacksmith shop, carpenters’s shop, harness shop, vast barns and warehouses, a great kitchen in the back yard, a carriage house, an old fashioned, horse-powered cotton gin was in sight. In other words, this place was equipped with every convenience of that day. All, or most all of these buildings stood up to a few years ago, and some of them are still standing…(Greensboro Herald-Journal, August 6, 1948).

Comparative information is also found in published material relating to plantations from nearby counties. A map of the Harris-Rives Plantation in Hancock County was originally drawn in 1835 (Lindley 1972-12). A map of the preserved remains of the Hurt-Rives Plantation is also available for comparison (Rozier 1966). A publication from the 1880s by David C. Barrow includes maps of both antebellum and postbellum settlement patterns (Barrow 1881:831, Prunty 1955:471). Some archeological work has also been conducted on a comparable plantation in Greene County known as the Curtright Plantation (Ledbetter 1998).

The magnitude of food production on the Little Plantation is demonstrated by figures shown in the 1860 agricultural census (Table 5). The census includes information on both crops and livestock produced on the plantation. Information is also included from the 1870 agricultural census when the plantation was operated by Kinchen Little’s son and widow. According to the will of Christine Little, dated 1873, she was engaged in some form of formal partnership with her son Kichen Davis Little with respect to the operation of the plantation (Putnam County Will Book C:179).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>1860 Kinchen Little</th>
<th>1870 Kinchen D. Little</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improved land</td>
<td>2900 acres</td>
<td>360 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood lands (1870 only)</td>
<td>1000 acres</td>
<td>250 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unimproved land</td>
<td>1000 acres</td>
<td>10000 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash value of farm</td>
<td>$31,430</td>
<td>$11,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value farming implements &amp; machinery</td>
<td>$1200</td>
<td>$460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total wages paid during year (1870 only)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horses</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asses and mules</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milch Cows</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Oxen</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Cows</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swine has kid</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value Live Stock</td>
<td>$5393</td>
<td>$3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat, bushels</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rye, bushels</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn, bushels</td>
<td>3300</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats, bushels</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco, pounds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ginned Cotton, bales (400 lb each)</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool, pounds</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peas and beans, bushels</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish potatoes, bushels</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet potatoes, bushels</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barley, bushels</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of orchard products</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wine, gallons</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of produce of market garden</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter, pounds</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hay, tons</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honey, pounds</td>
<td></td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value all farm production</td>
<td></td>
<td>$11,872</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Little family retained the homeplace tract for another fifty years following the death of Kinchen Little in 1865. While photographs have yet to be found for the first generation Little family, a very few have been found which depict two of his sons. Figure 104 shows photographs of Kinchen Davis Little and Littleton L. Little (the wife of L.L. Little is also shown). Both K.D. and L.L. Little were prominent figures in the Rockville community during the second half of the nineteenth century and both are associated with archeological sites in the project area.

Figure 104. Photographs of some of the later Little family.
Published information about the generation of Kinchen Little’s children is also available from a biography of Charles Edgar Little, who was a son of Kinchen Davis Little (Baird 1949). Charles E. Little was born in the old Little house and is credited with conducting early excavations at Little Rock Eagle mound. Baird provides a brief description of Kinchen D. Little and his wife Elizabeth.

Kinchen Davis Little was a tall, large-boned man with genial southern ways. He lived on the family estate and was one of the most popular and successful planters of Putnam County... Present citizens of Eatonton still recall him as an appealing figure riding in his buggy throughout the county to oversee the building and upkeep of the roads. He had the older southerner’s conception of work, and was very seldom seen doing manual labor himself, but he liked to ride his fields viewing the crops. As an easy-going southern gentleman, he took pleasure in keeping his family and possessions in good order, in being a member of the local church, and in having a pleasant home which he and a host of family friends could enjoy.

His wife, Elizabeth Martin, was a contrasting figure. She was small and energetic, the dominating figure in the home. She was well educated for a woman of her day, having studied under her father, Carlisle P.B. Martin. He was both a preacher and a schoolmaster, and for a time he had his youngest daughter, Elizabeth, as his teaching assistant while he conducted schools in several southern towns. When this daughter married the planter, Kinchen Little, she did not fail to bring with her many of the books that had been so much a part of her life as a student and teacher... Also to her, rather than to the poor rural schools of the time, was due much of the solid foundation in learning which her children received (Baird 1949:6).

Baird’s book goes on to describe some of the boyhood events of Kinchen D. Little’s son Charles E. Little who was born in 1865. Charles E. Little eventually became a respected teacher and Dean of Peabody College for Teacher’s in Nashville. This is the person referred to in earlier accounts by B.A. Bustin as professor Little from Vanderbilt. A couple of excerpts from Baird’s account follow. Note that there appear to be some discrepancies in his account of the family home compared to what we now know.

The house in which Charles Little was born was a white two story frame structure with a wide veranda on two of the sides. Under its steep roof were two floors of four large rooms each, divided by a central hallway. The home was located comfortably on a small hill facing the road which ran from Eatonton to Sparta. A half mile east flowed the Oconee River which formed a natural eastern boundary for his father’s land.

Though Charles Little may have lacked some of the advantages of children who lived in other places, yet he had many compensations. The events of the farm and nature of his father’s position held considerable attraction. He lived in a large home with relatives and younger brothers and sisters. On Sundays the family went in a group to the Methodist church a mile and a quarter away. Occasionally, the team was harnessed and the family rode in a buddy several miles into Eatonton. These were happy times which were looked forward to with much anticipation by Charles Little. Christmas was marked by a round of parties given at the home of various planters.

At the proper time, Charles Little began his formal education. In company with cousins, he was enrolled at Enterprise School, and mile or so from his home. There his first teacher was William Johnson, the local Methodist minister... At sixteen, with the consent and the encouragement of his parents, he moved to Eatonton in order to get further schooling at the Eatonton Academy... At nineteen Charles Little began to teach. His first teaching was done in the summer of 1885 in the same school which he had attended as a boy.

In the fall he left Eatonton to enter Peabody Normal in Nashville, Tennessee... (Baird 1949:10-12).

Baird’s discussion of Charles Little’s early life includes references to a mentor by the name of Dr. Benjamin W. Hunt. We know from the list of papers and publications found in Baird’s book and other sources that Little had an interest in archeology (Marquis 1932:1429). We also know that B.W. Hunt was also interested in the field. Hunt’s collection is referenced in a 1930s newspaper article which relates to the 1934 visit of archeologists working at Macon.

Ending a week of study of middle Georgia Indian mounds, Smithsonian Institution scientists in a party of approximately 45 persons yesterday visited the Eagle mounds of Putnam and viewed the half-century-old Indian collection of Col. B.W. Hunt, but heavy rain prevented them from touring the Oconee mounds near Milledgeville...

Returning to Eatonton, the group visited Colonel Hunt and Dr. John R. Swanton, Smithsonian ethnologists and southeastern Indian authority, explained uses of relics Colonel Hunt had gathered from Putnam mounds during his more than 80 years of life. Dr. M.W. Stirling, the other Smithsonian official who has been here in connection with the study this week, also praised the collection (Macon Telegraph, March 4, 1934).

138
The connection of these two individuals is interesting in light of the assertion of B.A. Bustin’s remembrance from his boyhood days that Professor Charles Little of Vanderbilt excavated the rock effigy mound on Kinchen D. Little’s plantation (Eatonton Messenger, October 14, 1937). This topic deserves additional research and the status of some of the family collections in Eatonton should be investigated.

Kinchen D. Little’s name appears infrequently in local histories but he was apparently a respected and influential member of the community. Information is found in the Memoirs of Georgia published in 1895. The text of that biographic sketch follows. Additional information is found in his obituary which was published in the Eatonton paper in 1910 (Figure 105).

K.D. Little, planter, Spivey, Putnam Co. Ga., son of Kinchen and Christine (Stinson) Little, was born in Putnam county, Feb. 16, 1830. His paternal grandfather, Abram Little, was born and raised in North Carolina, and when a young man came to Georgia and settled in Burke County. He afterward moved to Baldwin county, followed the life of a planter and raised a family of two sons and two daughters, and there he died. Mr. Little’s father was born and reared in Baldwin county, but married his wife in Putnam county, whose family (Stinson) came to the county in 1807, when it was organized. They lived and died on the plantation where Mr. Little now lives, and raised eleven children, all attaining to maturity: William F., deceased; L.L., deceased; Ann C., deceased; S.D., deceased; James, killed near Richmond, during the Seven Day’s fight; K.D., the subject of this sketch; A.A. deceased; M.E., wife of J.J. Lawrence, Atlanta, Ga.; F.M. planter, Hancock county; S.H., deceased; A.F., killed in the battle of Kennesaw Mountain. He died in April, 1865, aged seventy-five, and his wife died in 1875, at about the same age. He was an industrious and energetic, and hard-working man, took no interest in politics and when the war began was one of the wealthiest men in the county. Mr. Little has lived all his life in Putnam county, and been engaged in planting; has never cared much for politics, or sought political position. He owns a plantation of 1,840 acres on the Oconee river, directly east of Eatonton. Mr. Little was married in 1864, in Columbus, Ga., to Miss Elizabeth J., daughter of Carlyle P.B. and Margaret (Little) Martin. Mr. Martin was a school teacher and moved about considerably; but his daughter was raised and has lived in Georgia. To them have been born six children; Charles E., a graduate and now one of the faculty of Peabody Normal school, Nashville, Tenn., a young man of brilliant promise in his chosen profession; M.C., wife of A.J. Avery, Sparta, Ga.; L.F., Putnam county, Ga.; G.B. machine draughtsman, Dayton, O.; Ada T., at home; and Forister B., at home. Mr. Little ranks high in his community as a successful planter, and as a man of probity of character; and he looks forward to a bright future for his young professor son. He is a democrat and a Methodist - a steward of his local church (The Southern Historical Association 1895:732).

Forister Little remained in the old Little house following his father’s death and continued to operate the farm until financial problems forced him to sell the property in 1918. A limited amount of information concerning the family in the early part of the twentieth century is found in a newspaper article by Mrs. Bob White.

**DEATH OF MR. KINCHEN LITTLE**

One of Putnam's Oldest Citizens Passes to Great Beyond.

In the death of Mr Kinchen D. Little, which occurred at the home of his son Mr Forister B. Little, Tuesday night, 6th, after a long illness, Putnam sustains the loss of one of her most highly esteemed and valued citizens. Although he had lived far past the allotted age of man and being confined to his home for many years past, he had lived a useful and active life, reared to manhood and womanhood a lovely family of boys and girls, and his life and influence will live long in the hearts of those who knew and appreciated him for his genuine worth and integrity of character.

Mr. Little was a true gentleman of the old Southern school with the manners and ideals of the typical southerner, and ever loyal to his county, his state and his southland. A warm hearted friend and a noble Christian gentleman, a generous and affectionate father and husband, he will be missed in the home circle, in his church, and among his friends and neighbors.

Eighty years of age last February, bowed with the weight of years and infirmities of age, Death had for him no terror, with the Christian's hope of a beautiful immortality; and the silver cord for him was loosed only to enter into the joys of the home beyond. Mr. Little is survived by four sons, President Charles E. Little, of Peabody Normal College, at Nashville, Tenn., Mr Leon Little, formerly of Dayton Ohio, Mr Forister B. Little, a member of the Board of Education, of Putnam county, and Mr Lewis Little, of Alabama; also two daughters, Mrs Maggie Little Lee, of Louisville, Ga., and Mrs Ada Little Mixon, of Atlanta, also his wife, who was Miss Lizzie Martin, a daughter of Dr Martin, a well known educator. The funeral services were conducted by his pastor, Rev T. M. Elliott, pastor of the East Putnam circuit. The Messenger joins in sympathy to the bereaved family.

Figure 105. Obituary of Kinchen D. Little (Eatonton Messenger, December 17, 1910).
The K.D. Little house was at the end of the road leading off from the Circuit road at the Chapman house.

Mr. and Mrs. Little were both alive when we first moved to Rockville but as there were no children there for me to visit I did not become too well acquainted with the family until Mr. Little died and Forester, their youngest son, took charge of the plantation and married Lucile Harris of Ft. Valley, a cousin of Prof. Branch’s wife. He was one of the ablest teachers in St. Paul S. S. and a loyal member in spite of the fact his father never attended St. Paul after it was removed from its original site on the Sparta highway where the old church cemetery is still visible from the highway.

The population of the community began to locate closer to Rockville Academy and the large general store of Branch and DeJarnette so it seemed practical to move the church to a more central location which was subscribed to by most of its members - but a few of the older members, one of which was Mr. Little, clung to the old church and when it was torn down and another built next to Rockville Academy he refused ever to attend church there.

History repeats itself - our little country churches are fast losing their attendance and our country families are moving to town. There’s Oconee Church standing opposite the fire tower on the Sparta highway - once a flourishing Baptist church in my girlhood, having a large Sunday School attendance. Now it stands "in the wildwood where the wild flowers bloom" serene and still lovely but deserted with all but two of its families moved or passed on into the Beyond.

And St. Paul with its rich heritage from the Past and its altar where a famous minister, Pierce Harris pledge his boyish heart to work for his Master. If it wasn’t for the loyal members living close enough to "commute" to St. Paul the first Sunday in the month, it too, would have passed into the halls of Memory.

Mr. and Mrs. Little had five other children besides Forester. One of the daughters married Prof. Mixon, one of the first teachers at Rockville Academy - the other a Mr. Avery of Sparta. Their two children, Francis and Sarah, used to spend their vacation with their grandparents and Sarah and I grew very fond of one another - I’d love to know if she still lived. A son of the Little’s was a famous instructor at Peabody Institute most of his life. He was Prof. Charles Little. Then there was Louie - he married Mr. Waldo Lewis’ sister and lived in a house on the right just before you reached the Little house. I do not remember them but I do remember their son George Little for I went to school with him and always marveled at his “platinum” blonde hair - I’d seen girls with that kind of hair but never a boy, people explained it by recalling that both their parents had very blond hair - George was usually smart at school and I’ve heard that he went to Texas and made quite a success in the business world. Beemen was the other son who returned to Rockville the year before I married from Dayton, Ohio where he was in a business along scientific lines - all men of talent but to my thinking Forester, in his quiet way, accomplished the most as far as "a good life" goes giving up his ambition to study to be a veterinarian and staying with his parents in their old age - successfully operating a large plantation - raising some of the fastest race horses of that time - with a fast running, well kept pack of fox dogs for his and his friends’ pleasure - and last, but far from least - he and his wife gave to the world three fine girls and a manly son (they lost one baby son) - Elizabeth, Fanny, Lucile, and Forester Jr. I call that a well rounded, satisfying life for home and community living (Eatonton Messenger, April 20, 1961).

The preceding newspaper account by Rockville resident Mrs. Bob White shows the declining importance of the Little plantation with respect to the larger community. She notes the shifting population to New Rockville which occurred in the late nineteenth century. That left most of "Old Rockville" occupied by black tenants. According to Mrs. White, the last of the Little family occupied three houses within the boundaries of the old plantation. Forester Little continued to occupy the old family home while Louis occupied a house along the road to the west and Beemen lived in another house. Forester Little had purchased the family farm from his father in 1905 (Deed Book F:225). The deed at that time listed the adjoining property owners were H.R. DeJarnette, C.B. Little, E.B. Ezell, W.F. Turner, and W.F. Jenkins. The tract was for 1670 acres but was actually smaller because of land previously sold to Beeman Little and Daniel Denham.

The 1910 census shows Beeman Little living three houses away from Forester Little but there is no reference to Louis Little. The Forester and Beemen Little houses are separated by two black family residences with heads of household listed as Sarah Nelson and Joe Riley. The proximity of the two Little houses is consistent with the distance between the Kinchen Little house and the old Cooper/McKinley house. Beemen Little purchase ten acres known as the old McKinley house site from Forester little in 1906 (Putnam County Deed Book F:242). The phrase "house site" seems unusual with respect to a land transfers of the era. The phrase might mean a lot with a house or a lot that formerly contained the house. The deed does contain a number of important reference points which are valuable with respect to the identification of archeological sites in the project area (Figure 106). Beemen Little retained the tract along with other property totalling 770 acres until 1926 (Deed Book K:514).
Figure 106. Copy of a 1906 deed for the “old McKinley house site.”
The end of the Little Plantation may have begun with the land speculation associated with the proposed construction of a massive hydroelectric dam on the Oconee River (see Chapter 1 for further discussion). Portions of the old Little Plantation were purchased by Charles F. Howe for that purpose in 1908 (Deed Book F:376). Forester Little was forced to mortgage the homeplace tract in 1909 (Deed Book F:434) and he eventually sold the property to a Mr. J.D. Maddox in 1918 (Deed Book J:405). A plat was prepared for the 1918 transaction which is reproduced as Figure 107. The plat shows the Forester Little house and family cemetery, the 10-acre lot of the old McKinley house site, a few other structures, and a lot set aside for the Mt. Zion Lodge burial ground.

Some information on John Dillard Maddox was provided by a descendent, Stella (Maddox) Swindell who now lives in Madison. Two photographs provided by Mrs. Swindell show the Maddox family at their Rockville home in 1918 (Figure 108). The photograph shows her grandfather, John D. Maddox, and her father, Jefferson Maddox. According to family tradition the house, which appears to have been constructed in the latter part of the nineteenth century, was destroyed by fire. Also according to family tradition, the Maddox family actually lived for an unknown period of time in the Little house (Stella Swindell, personal communication May 2, 2005).

The old Little plantation property exchanged hands several times before being sold to Georgia Power as two tracts in 1929. A summary of all the transaction is found in (Deed Book M:316. Two plats were drawn by Georgia Power at that time which are shown as Figure 109. The plats are quite detailed and the locations of structures have been determined by the archeological survey to be accurate. The plats also show the locations of three cemeteries in the area. Two of the cemeteries shown in LL 446 are associated with the Kinchen Little Plantation. A third, shown in LL 44 is associated with the Cooper/McKinley place. The plat of the Holder property also shows the property set aside for Mt. Zion Lodge which also contains a cemetery.
Figure 108. Two ca 1918 photographs of the Maddox family at an unidentified house in Rockville. Front row, sons left to right: Guy, John Patrick, Walter Estelle, Louis, Jefferson, and Horace Maddox. Back row, left to right: Mary K. Maddox, Estella White Maddox, John Dillard Maddox, and Annie Lou Maddox.
Figure 109. Reproductions of two Georgia Power Company plats showing project area in 1929.
Aside from Georgia Power which has continued to own or manage much of the property until the present time, the Preston Holder family is best associated with the area. The Holder family continued to live on the land and one surviving daughter, Mrs. Emma Lou (Holder) Reese Fuller, has been the source of valuable information concerning the continued use of the farm in the 1930s and early 1940s. Mrs. Fuller has preserved family photographs showing the Little house at the time of her residence (Figure 110). Additional information has been retrieved by a later resident by the name of Mr. J.R. Davis. Interviews with these individuals are found in Appendix C of this report.

Figure 110. Ca 1940 photograph of Kinchen Little house showing two small members of the Holder family (left is Pete (Pat) Holder and right is Linda (Holder) Newton (photograph courtesy of Emma Lou Fuller).

William F. Jenkins purchased a small farm that was located at the western side of the project area in the late nineteenth century (Figure 111). The chain of title is incomplete and the best information is found in a plat made in 1929 (Deed Book M:258). The tract is also shown in Figure 65). A portion of the property includes LL 457 which was known as the Cummings’ place in the nineteenth century.
Figure 111. Copy of the 1929 plat of the W.F. Jenkins Tract.
The 1929 Jenkins plat shows roads and a few river features but does not show houses. The deed description includes stipulations by Mrs. Leila M. Jenkins who was the widow of W.F. Jenkins. The deed also referred to the property as the Lewis and Turner places (Deed Book M:258). The deed recorded that the Jenkins family reserved the property for crop production and the use of the dwelling for the year 1929. The archeological survey identified two structures (9PM126 and 9PM140) in the tract which may represent the dwelling referred to in the deed.

As noted, the property was acquired by William F. Jenkins at some point during the latter part of the nineteenth century. Based on our knowledge of this very influential person, it is clear that the property was not a primary residence. The old Jenkins’s home was located in the town of Eatonton. A search of deed records shows that Jenkins purchased several pieces of property in the Rockville area. The tract associated with the project area may have been used as a farming venture or possibly a country retreat.

William Franklin Jenkins was a prominent figure in Putnam County during the second half of the nineteenth century but he is scarcely mentioned in local history books (Walters 1995:280, Little 1999:30). Excellent biographic sketches do appear in the Memoirs of Georgia (1895) and Men of Mark in Georgia (Northen 1912). The Northen book includes an illustration of Jenkins which is reproduced in Figure 112. During the Civil War, Jenkins served with Stonewall Jackson and was severely wounded at the battle of Manassas. After a long period of recovery, he returned to service as an ordnance sergeant of the Doles-Cook Brigade. At the close of the war he received a law degree from the University of Virginia and began practicing in Eatonton. He was elected mayor and he was elected as Judge of the Superior Courts of the Ocmulgee circuit in 1886 and 1890. Jenkins married Miss Leila Head in 1870 and had three children (Northen 1912:4). One of his sons, W.F. Jenkins, Jr., was also a lawyer and later became a Judge of the State Supreme Court (Little 1999:160).

Figure 112. Portrait of Judge W.F. Jenkins (Northen 1912:4).

The Georgia Power Era

The land associated with the project area was retained under their direct ownership until the late 1950s. The property was managed by their Land Department during that period. Ten acres was sold to the University of Georgia in 1939 (Deed Book P:196). That transaction, which consisted of land surrounding the stone effigy mound, will be discussed in the following chapter.

Based upon a conversation with Dr. Margaret Calhoun, archivist with the Georgia Power Company, the project tract was managed by the company’s land department for a number of years. Dr. Calhoun was not able to provide specific details of the period. A general review of newspapers provided little information. One 1940 newspaper article noted timber sales by the company.
Ga. Power Markets Timber

The Georgia Power Co. Has sold the greatest part of its merchantable timber in Putnam County to Ingram and LeGrand Lumber Co., Lumpkin, Ga., according to announcement of J.O. Collier, local manager this week. Mr. Collier was advised by the Land Department. Property involved is adjacent to Oconee and Little Rivers, and includes timber in Putnam, Baldwin, Hancock, and Greene Counties. The lands were acquired by the power company in connection with the proposed Furman Shoals and Laurens Shoals developments.

According to W.A. Hammel, manager of Land Department, the lumber company now has the authority to post lands, locate saw mills on the lands, and the right of ingress and egress (Eatonton Messenger, Sept. 5, 1940).

Figure 113 shows a photograph from the early 1940s showing one of the logging crews who assisted with the project referenced the newspaper report. The photograph was taken south of the project area but Mr. Copelan did cut timber on the Little Plantation (Appendix F).

Most of the project area was included in a large tract sold to Owens Illinois Glass Company in 1957 for $10.00 "and other valuable considerations" (Putnam County Deed Book 2X:560). The western portion of the project area was included in another large tract sold to Georgia Kraft in 1959 for the same price (Putnam County Deed Book 3B:204). Part of the area now included in the DNR wildlife management area was part of a land exchange related to Reynolds Plantation. Georgia Power presently owns a substantial portion of the acreage associated with the project area and much of that land is managed by the Department of Natural Resources as a wildlife management area. The area immediately north of the project area includes Lake Oconee, Wallace Dam, and the Georgia Power recreational area known as Lawrence Shoals Park. An excellent description of that park in found in Walters (1995:477). Georgia Power improvements related to the project area consist primarily of road construction. An economic use of the land over the past half century has been as timberlands. The areas formerly controlled by Rome Kraft have been heavily disturbed by very destructive timbering techniques. The areas formerly controlled by Owens Glass are much better preserved. The preservation state of recorded archeological sites is dependent on both the practices of modern logging and the earlier land use practices associated with the earlier farmers.