



UNINCORPORATED CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION - 2024

Per House Bill 493, detailed checklists of items required to be submitted for each type of project are supplemental to this application. Each item must be checked off and a page number where the item is located must be noted and included with the application. The applicant must sign the affidavit, at the end of the application and each required checklist, certifying that all required items are provided. If there are questions regarding items required for your specific project, contact staff for clarification prior to submitting the application.

Applications that do not provide documentation or required materials will be noted as incomplete and may result in delays in the Board or Staff's review of the application and/or denial of the request. Revisions made to the application after the submittal deadline and prior to the Board hearing may be continued to the following month's hearing. The Commission reserves the right to require additional information if it believes that the submission of such information is necessary to understand the nature of the intended activity.

Questions? Email the Historic Preservation Department at preservationquestions@thempc.org.
Mail to: Building Safety and Regulatory Services; P.O. Box 8161, Savannah GA, 31406. OR
Deliver To: Building Safety and Regulatory Services, 1117 Eisenhower Drive #D, Savannah, GA
Phone: 912-201-4300.

RECEIVED
CHATHAM COUNTY
FEB 20 2024

**DEPT. OF BUILDING SAFETY
& REGULATORY SERVICES**

Existing Local Historic Districts & Historic Properties:

<input type="checkbox"/> Pin Point Historic District
<input type="checkbox"/> Pennyworth Island Historic District
<input type="checkbox"/> Maridon
<input type="checkbox"/> Isle of Hope Missionary Baptist Church
<input type="checkbox"/> New Ogeechee Baptist Church

Proposed Historic Designation:

<input type="checkbox"/> Historic District Designation Proposed Name: _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic Property Designation: Address: <u>1253 Little Neck Road, Savannah, GA 31419</u> Proposed Name: <u>Jacob Fox Gould House</u>

Applicant Mailing Address:

Name: Elizabeth Arndt

Address: 1253 Little Neck Road

City: Savannah State GA Zip 31419

Phone: 912-433-0577 E-Mail Address carndt2651@aol.com

Property Owner Mailing Address:

Name: Elizabeth Arndt

Address: 1253 Little Neck Road

City: Savannah State GA Zip 31419

Phone: 912-433-0577 E-Mail Address carndt2651@aol.com

Official Correspondence: Applicant Owner Other _____ (Check all that apply).

Property Information of Proposed Work: (PIN and Zoning information can be found at www.sagis.org.)

Address: 1253 Little Neck Road, Savannah, GA 31419

PIN (Property Identification Number): 11026 02037Y Zoning: R-A

2024 CCHPC Meeting Schedule:

Application Deadline (Due by Close of Business: 3:00pm)	Meeting Date at 3:00 p.m.:
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, December 6, 2023	Wednesday, January 4, 2024
<input type="checkbox"/> February 7, 2024	March 6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> April 3	May 1
<input type="checkbox"/> June 5	July 11

HD-0224-000451

<input type="checkbox"/> August 7	September 4
<input type="checkbox"/> October 2	November 6

Scope of Work: (Check all that apply.)

STAFF REVIEW (two or less of the following*):		COMMISSION REVIEW:
<input type="checkbox"/> Windows	<input type="checkbox"/> Doors	<input type="checkbox"/> New Construction, Parts I and II
<input type="checkbox"/> Shutters	<input type="checkbox"/> Awnings	<input type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitation*/Alterations
<input type="checkbox"/> Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Stucco Repairs	<input type="checkbox"/> Addition of a building
<input type="checkbox"/> Roof Repair/Replace	<input type="checkbox"/> Brick Repointing	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition of a contributing building
<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical Screening	<input type="checkbox"/> Fences/Walls	<input type="checkbox"/> Relocation of a contributing building
<input type="checkbox"/> Signage		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic Property Designation
<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition of a non-contributing building		
<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment to Previous File; File Number: _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (description): _____		
Contact MPC Staff (preservationquestions@thempc.org or 912-651-1440) for checklist requirements prior to submittal.		

*Three or more staff review items is considered a rehabilitation and must be reviewed by the Commission.

Estimated Cost of the Proposed Work: \$ _____

Filing Fee Schedule:** Make checks payable to Chatham County. Include with application when submitting).

Estimated Cost of Scope of Work	Base Filing Fee
<input type="checkbox"/> \$0 - \$5,000	\$25.00 plus \$40 posting sign fee
<input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000-\$25,000	\$50.00 plus \$40 posting sign fee
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25,001-\$50,000	\$100.00 plus \$40 posting sign fee
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001-\$100,000	\$150.00 plus \$40 posting sign fee
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001-\$500,000	\$200.00 plus \$40 posting sign fee
<input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001- \$1,000,000	\$300.00 plus \$40 posting sign fee
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,00-\$5,000,000	\$500.00 plus \$40 posting sign fee
<input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	\$1,000.00 plus \$40 posting sign fee
<input type="checkbox"/> Over \$10,000,001	\$2,000.00 plus \$40 posting sign fee
<input type="checkbox"/> Local designation of National Register District	\$100 + \$1 for each property
<input type="checkbox"/> Local designation of a non-National Register District	\$200 + \$2 for each property
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver of designation fee	\$0*
<input type="checkbox"/> Local designation of National Register Property	\$100
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local designation of non-National Register Property	\$200
<input type="checkbox"/> All New Construction	
<input type="checkbox"/> Residential	Square footage x \$80 plus base filing fee
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	Square footage x \$100 plus base filing fee
<input type="checkbox"/> Additions over 5000 square feet	
<input type="checkbox"/> Residential	Sq ft x \$80 plus base filing fee (est. cost of scope of work)
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	Sq ft X \$ 100 plus base filing fee (est. cost of scope of work)
<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition of a contributing building	\$500.00 plus \$40 posting sign fee
<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal of Staff Decision	\$200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Deferrals	
<input type="checkbox"/> 60 days or less	\$50 plus base filing fee
<input type="checkbox"/> 60 days or greater	\$100 plus base filing fee
<input type="checkbox"/> After-the-Fact (Work completed without a COA)	Double the base filing fee

**** Waiver of District Designation Fee Criteria:** The applicant may request in writing a waiver of the District Designation Fee if the median income level for the proposed district is below \$25,000, as verified on the most recent Census records. If the applicant believes that the Census records do not adequately reflect the current median income level of the proposed district, the applicant may self-report the income of each household located within the proposed district with the head of each household signing a statement attesting to the veracity of the self-reported income level. Please contact the Preservation Department for more information.

Affidavit Certifying Completeness of Application:

I hereby acknowledge that I understand the requirements listed above for what constitutes a complete application. I have checked off each box and included a page number where the item is located. I confirm that the requirements for a complete application have been met.

Signature: Elyse E. Andt Date: 2/20/24

Signature of Legal Owner or Authorized Agent:

I have read and understand all the information enclosed in this application form. I hereby certify that I am the legal owner or authorized agent for the legal owner of the subject property.

Signature: Elyse E. Andt Date: 2/20/24

Questions? Email the Historic Preservation Department at preservationquestions@thempc.org or call 912-651-1440.

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Deliver To: Building Safety and Regulatory Services, 1117 Eisenhower Drive #D, Savannah, GA, 31406

Phone: 912-201-4300.

A complete application submission consists of:

- Complete, signed application
- Complete, signed checklist(s) for each request
- Checklist documentation
- Payment receipt

Applications that do not provide documentation or required materials will be noted as incomplete and may result in delays in the Board or Staff's review of the application and/or denial of the request.

For questions, email preservationquestions@thempc.org or call 912-651-1440. Please do not submit applications to preservationquestions@thempc.org.

RECEIPT (REG-020419-2024)
FOR CHATHAM COUNTY BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES

BILLING CONTACT
 Elizabeth Arndt



Payment Date: 02/21/2024

Reference Number	Fee Name	Transaction Type	Payment Method	Amount Paid
HD-0224-000451	Property not designated for Historic Property	Fee Payment	Check #648	\$200.00
1253 LITTLE NECK RD UNINCORPORATED, GA 31419			SUB TOTAL	\$200.00
			TOTAL	\$200.00



Office Use Only
File Number: _____

**UNINCORPORATED CHATHAM COUNTY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**
Board Review Checklists
Historic Property Designation

Notes:

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Once an application submittal is determined to be complete, it will be scheduled for the next posted meeting date. For a historic property designation and/or a COA, the applicant must post a sign announcing the CCHPC meeting date at least 15 days prior to the scheduled date. The applicant will be contacted by County staff to pick up a sign at the Building Safety and Regulatory Services office. Instructions regarding posting will be attached to the sign. Prior to the meeting, a copy of the staff report will be provided to the owner or agent via email. Following the decision by the Commission, the written decision will be sent to the owner or agent after the meeting.

HISTORIC PROPERTY DESIGNATION

The following list is the minimum amount of information required for review (please check). Please feel free to include as much additional information as you feel is relevant to the historic district:

- RECOMMENDED** Pre-Application Conference with MPC Preservation Department Staff member:
Date attended and with which staff member: Jonathan Mellon January 22, 2024
- Provide two (2) physical copies of the entire submittal packet and check payment (payable to Chatham County)
Mail To: **Building Safety and Regulatory Services, P.O. Box 8161, Savannah GA, 31406. OR**
Deliver To: **Building Safety and Regulatory Services, 117 Eisenhower Dr. # D, Savannah GA, 31406**
- Page No. 1: **Written Project Description.** Introduce the proposed designation and the existing conditions of the property. Include the following (attached additional pages as needed):
 - Is the proposed property already listed on the National Register of Historic Places? Yes No
 - Is the proposed property currently under consideration for National Register listing? Yes No
 - If yes, date applied: _____
 - Proposed Historic Name: Jacob Fox Gould House
 - Other possible names: _____
 - Approximate acreage of district: 19.8 but house only should be considered

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Deliver To: Building Safety and Regulatory Services, 1117 Eisenhower Drive #D, Savannah, GA, 31406, Phone: 912-201-4300.

- Overall character: Charming wood frame antebellum plantation farmhouse
 - Appearance: Cottage Built in vernacular interpretation of the Georgian style
 - Architectural characteristics: Tidewater South Raised Cottage "hall and parlor"
 - Environmental surroundings: Rural, open fields and wooded areas original location
- Page No. 9: **Narrative Statement of Significance.** Explain the significance of the property and reference each box marked below (attached additional pages as needed):

- Criteria for Local Designation (mark one or more boxes for applicable criteria):
- Property is an outstanding example of a resource representative of its era.
 - Property is one of the few remaining examples of a past architectural style.
 - Property is a place or resource associated with an event or persons of historical or cultural significance to the County of Chatham, State of Georgia, or the region.
 - Property is the site of natural or aesthetic interest that is continuing to contribute to the cultural or historical development and heritage of the County of Chatham, State of Georgia, or region.

Specific areas of significance (mark one or more boxes).

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology – historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape architecture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology – prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Law |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Maritime history |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Performing arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics/government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economics | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health/medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's history |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____ |

- Page No. 11: **Narrative History.**
- Provide a written history of the property and include (if applicable) its physical development, the people associated with the property, the events and activities that took place there, and key dates.
- Page No. 23: **Location Map (location of the property on the Official Zoning Map of Chatham County).**
- Page No. 24: **Written Boundary Description.** Describe the boundaries of the property. This must follow the legal description or survey: explain why the boundaries were selected.

Page No. 25: **Property Map (location of property boundaries)**. Indicate which resources within the property are contributing and which are non-contributing.

Page No. 27: **Color photographs**. Provide photographs depicting the property.

Affidavit Certifying Completeness of Application:

I hereby acknowledge that I understand the requirements listed above for what constitutes a complete application. I have checked off each box and included a page number where the item is located. I confirm that the requirements for a complete application have been met.

Signature: *Elizabeth A. Cant* Date: 2/20/24

Questions? Email the Preservation Department at historic@thempc.org or call 912-651-1440.

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Deliver To: Building Safety and Regulatory Services, 1117 Eisenhower Drive #D, Savannah, GA, 31406, Phone: 912-201-4300.

Resource: **Jacob Fox Gould House**

Submitted by Elizabeth "Chica" Arndt

Location: 1253 Little Neck Road, Savannah, GA 31419

Contact: carndt2651@aol.com 912-441-6152

Jacob Fox Gould House Application for Local Historic Designation

1. Project Description

Summary Paragraph

The Jacob Fox Gould (Gould) House is a c.1830, Tidewater South Raised Cottage and is exemplary of a "hall-and-parlor" timber-framed, one-and-half story house in the Georgian style. The building scale, decoration, and plan of the house fits the pattern of dwellings erected by slave-owning farmers in the Georgia countryside in the first half of the nineteenth century. Although it appears to be a modest residence it is exemplary of the scale of houses erected by farm families such as the Goulds. Its importance today is as a representative of a once common, but now increasingly rare, early dwelling of this type in the countryside around Savannah. Although additions and alterations were made to the house in the late nineteenth century, between 1916 and 1937, in 1945, and in the late 1990s, the plan and a substantial proportion of the original frame and interior finishes survive. It was built in an era when traditional building practices influenced the fabrication of the materials and manner in which the building was constructed. Local craftsman and enslaved persons constructed the house using traditional building techniques and just a decade prior to the era of mechanized manufacturing of building materials. The fabric of the house shows construction with pit sawn, hand-hewn and hand-planed wood, hand-made bricks with tabby mortar and clinched wrought nails. The additions can be divided into four sections. The four sections are: the original plan of the Gould house consisting of the one-and-a-half story hall-and-parlor home with five ground-floor rooms and two unheated ones in the garret under a side gabled roof; the one-story 1945 addition extending 8' off the rear of the first section under a shed roof; the one-story 1997 hyphen under a gable roof, connecting the c.1830 and 1945 structures to the 1997 addition; and the one-and-a-half story 1997 addition under a side gabled roof. The entire structure sits on the original sill plate and beams and a combination of c.1830 brick and rebuilt 1945 brick pier foundations infilled with plastic lattice. All sections of the roof are clad in wood shingles. Most of the c.1830 and 1945 sections are clad in lapped wood siding with the exception of the east elevation which is clad in c.1830 horizontal shiplap. The frame of the original porch was replaced with modern dimensioned lumber in 1945 and classical revival pillars in 1994, but elsewhere, the house still retains most of its original framing. The 1997 sections are clad in lapped hardiboard siding. The house has never been moved and is located on its original site in rural western Chatham County, facing Little Neck Road to the east. The property also contains several non-contributing structures, which are primarily corrugated metal and woodsheds, except for a bank of solar panels. There is also a single non-contributing c.1915 building on the property.

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The Jacob Fox Gould House is located in rural western Chatham County, Georgia and it remains in its original location on 20 acres of land. In 1866, Jacob Fox Gould transferred 700 acres of his land to his son, Robert Henry Gould. The remaining 20 acres remains undeveloped with a mix of open fields and wooded areas. Development remains fairly sparse for several miles. A short distance away is the Bethel Baptist Church and the Bethel Cemetery whose land was donated by descendants of the Gould family for the benefit of the Bethel Community. The Jacob Fox Gould House stands alone as the oldest building in the vicinity with the majority of houses-built c.1950 or later.

Exterior of Jacob Fox Gould House

The style of the Jacob Fox Gould House, described as a Tidewater South Raised Cottage is exemplary of a "hall-and-parlor" timber-framed, one-and-half story house. Influenced by the Georgian style, the façade is symmetrical with a center door and four evenly spaced six-over-nine pane windows each with single hung window sash along with two brick gable end chimneys c.1945 chimneys (Photos 1/2). There are two evenly spaced dormer windows that project from the main roof under shed roofs. Each dormer has a wood single hung four-over-four sash window. Standing on brick pier foundations approximately 3 ½' above ground level, the five-bay, east front façade measures 28½ feet in width and the original north and south gable ends were 31 feet in length. Plastic lattice infills between the brick piers on this elevation, and a brick stair with metal railings grants access to the front porch. There is an eight-foot-deep c.1945 front porch with a shed roof supported by four 19th century Doric columns placed c.1997 with the two shed dormers above that light the two unheated rooms in the garret. The wood floorboards of the front porch run perpendicular to the house itself. The central front door has a divided wood screen door in front of it and is a wood plank door composed of four vertical boards with three horizontal boards securing it. The gable roof is covered by modern wood shingles installed in 2024. The structure faces east, is clad in c.1830 wood horizontal shiplap secured by mature cut nails.

The north elevation has four sections delineated by four roof sections: the main side gabled roof covering the original structure and a shed roof covering the 1945 addition, the 1997 hyphen under a gable, and the side gabled roof covering the 1997 rear addition (Photo 3). The first section has a brick pier foundation that has been infilled with plastic lattice and is clad in lapped wood siding that is painted. A brick chimney rebuilt in 1945 restored to match the original sits between two wood single hung sash six-over-nine sash windows. Another wood single hung six-over-nine sash window is located further west on this section of the house. A single wood single hung six-over-nine sash window is centered in the gable. The next section under the shed roof covering the 1945 addition, there is continuous brick foundation, but the foundation rises higher here than on the original portion of the house. This section is also clad in lapped wood siding, but the siding here is narrower than that on the original portion of the house. A set of three wood double hung six-over-six sash windows are centered on this section. The 1997 hyphen has modern brick piers infilled with plastic lattice, is clad in lapped hardiboard, and is set back from both the 1945 addition and the 1997 addition. A small wood double hung six-over-six sash window is centered on the hyphen. The one-and-a-half story 1997 addition sits on a brick pier foundation infilled with plastic lattice, has lapped hardiboard siding, and is covered in a

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symmetrical side-gabled roof. A brick chimney in a similar position to the chimneys on the original structure is set on this elevation with a wood double hung six-over-six sash window set on either side. There is a wood double hung six-over-six sash window set into the gable and a gable vent at the very top. A 1997 wood deck and handicap ramp connects both the 1945 and 1997 additions.

On the west elevation of the original gabled roof visible from the north elevation, there is a single dormer with a shed roof that has a wood double hung six-over-six sash window (Photo 4). The west elevation of the 1945 addition has a screen door to the north, covering a half-lit paneled wood door with six lites. South of the door, there is a wood double hung six-over-six sash window. The over side of the "U" formed by the 1945 addition, the 1997 hyphen, and the 1997 addition is the east side of the 1997 addition which is only lapped siding.

The west elevation is the 1997 addition, which sits on a brick pier foundation infilled with plastic lattice, is clad in lapped hardiboard siding, and is covered by a side gabled roof clad in wood shingles. There are two wood double hung six-over-six sash windows spaced evenly on this elevation with two projecting dormers under shed roofs above. Each dormer has a wood single hung six-over-six sash window.

Starting at the west end of the south elevation, the 1997 addition has a wood fixed sixteen-pane window, a small, fixed wood window, and a wood double hung six-over-six sash window (Photo 5). There is a wood double hung six-over-six sash window set in the gable along with a gable vent at the very top. The 1997 hyphen has a single centered window opening that has a stained-glass transom over a wood single hung six-over-six sash window. Moving east, there is a decorative modern wood screen door covering a half-lit metal door with nine lites. This door is covered by a small metal shed roof with supports. The 1945 addition has a wood double hung six-over-six sash window. Moving from west to east, the oldest section of the structure has a wood single hung six-over-nine sash window, a four lite hopper window, a fixed wooden door, a brick chimney rebuilt in 1945 to the original specifications, and another wood single hung six-over-nine sash window. A wood double hung six-over-six sash window is set into the gable with a rectangular gable vent centered above it. This elevation features a painted wooden deck with a simple handrail with horizontal slats that connects to the front porch. Wood stairs allow access to this deck from both the south and west sides of it (Photo 6).

On this elevation the "U" formed by the 1945 addition, the 1997 hyphen, and the 1997 addition, has a wooden deck that infills the space with a wood stair to the yard. The east elevation of the 1997 addition is clad in lapped hardiboard siding without any other features, the 1945 addition features a pair of wood single hung six-over-nine sash windows. A dormer under a shed roof with a wood single hung six-over-six sash window is also visible on the original roof. All of the HVAC equipment is set next to the house along this elevation.

Interior of Jacob Fox Gould House

The front door is located in the center of the east front of the house and opens into the larger north room, Living Room. This space was the principal public room, sometimes known as the hall, or best room. The room measures 15 feet 10 inches in width and is 17 feet 4 inches deep.

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It has a second door on the west wall opposite the entrance, which opens into what had been the central back room. There is another doorway to the north of this one on the back wall, which gave access to the northwest back room. The main front room is lit by four windows, two just to the north of the front door and two positioned on either side of the fireplace in the north gable end. Interior finish is hand-planed paneling laid over brick infill.

The Living Room (Photos 9/10/11/12) has c.1830 wide plank heart pine floors and interior walls covered with hand-planed, flush board sheathing secured by mature, square-headed machine-made nails. While the Parlor has original ceiling boards the Living Room ceiling was replaced c.1945 with stained wood ceiling. The c.1830 wall boards vary between 8½ and 9½ inches in width and are an inch and a quarter thick. Their edges are jointed by tongue-and-groove joints. Only the horizontal boards that enclosed the wall framing in the Living Room have beaded edges; the rest of the rooms have only butted edges. The Living Room has three doorways; two batten doors open on the west partition wall separating the Living Room and originally led to one central and one northwest unheated storage/bedrooms which is now the Dining Room. A third batten door on the south vertical board partition wall of the main room opens into the other front space, the Parlor (Photos 13/14).

The Parlor has c.1830 wide plank heart pine floors, ceiling and interior walls covered with hand-planed, flush board sheathing secured by mature, square-headed machine-made nails. The c.1830 boards vary between 8½ and 9½ inches in width and are an inch and a quarter thick. Their edges are jointed by tongue-and-groove joints. The Parlor measures 11 feet 9 inches wide. The front wall has two matching single hung sash windows composed of six-over-nine. A similar window appears to the east of the center fireplace on the south gable end. On the other side of the fireplace is a batten door that opens to outside porch. Its location made it close to the original freestanding kitchen, whose foundations partially survive, located about 12 feet to the south of the main house. There is a small closet beneath the staircase in this room.

The interior c.1830 batten doors have horizontal battens with beaded edges and are secured to the vertical boards with clinched wrought nails. All the doors were secured to their jambs by cast-iron butt hinge with four sets of hinges identified as original to the construction. Locks on the batten doors are not original to the house and scarring on the doors indicate original locks were mounted rim locks. The present locks are small, 20th century square cast-iron rim locks with porcelain or mineral knobs. Most of the sheathing boards and batten doors display a series of long shallow grooves with slight ridges that reflect the finish of a jack plane.

In the Living Room and Parlor, the gable end chimneys were reconstructed c.1945 are exposed brick with wood mantels (Photos 11/16). Matching wood mantels are c.1830 and are of Greek Revival design. The mantels are relatively plain. Below the later unmolded shelf is a projecting nosing that is 1½-inches thick and terminates in an acute point. Beneath this is a conventional cavetto, followed by a plain unmolded frieze. The architrave consists of a quirked Greek ovolo with a ¼-inch astragal with a projecting ¼-inch bead at the bottom. As far as other decorative finishes, none of the door or window architraves have any backbands or other moldings except ½-inch beaded jambs. The lintels of the doors and windows have a slight projecting strip but are unmolded.

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The Dining Room (Photos 17/19/20) has c.1830 horizontal shiplap on the east wall that matches the shiplap on the façade of the house itself. The north wall has exposed brick noggin that has been whitewashed between wood framing. The north half of the west wall is whitewashed brick noggin, while the south half is horizontal shiplap installed c.1997 to match the original shiplap on the east wall. Original, handmade bricks still survive as nogging in the walls on the north side and a few places on the west side of the rear northwest room. The south wall is clad in c.1830 vertical shiplap. The floors in this room are original with wide plank heart pine; however, the wood grain is minimally looser on these floorboards than it is on those in the Living Room and Parlor. The ceiling in this roof is exposed wooden rafters with stained wood boards between them.

The Guest Room (Photos 21) has c.1945 horizontal wood paneling on the interior walls and ceiling. The north and east walls have older and wider horizontal paneling. The floors in this room are the original wide plank heart pine, except for the eight-foot addition to the room on the west side. The floors in this section are c.1945 pine. The Guest Bathroom (Photo 22/23) added c.1945 between the Guest Room and Parlor has the original wide plank heart pine floors. The Bathroom tub, sink, and tile up to chair rail height date from c.1945. The shower surround and toilet date after 1997, and the walls, two doors and ceiling are c. 1945 vertical wood paneling, "knotty pine". The Mud Room (Photo 24) has c.1945 vertical wood plank walls, horizontal wood plank ceilings, and a painted concrete floor.

The batten door from the Dining Room opens to an enclosed staircase leading to the garret (Photos 18/25). All of the spaces in this area were refinished in 1979 by McDonald and Susannah Fawcett. Bedroom A (Photo 26) has exposed timber rafters on the ceiling, with sheetrock between them and Bedroom B (Photos 27/28). The floors are wide plank heart pine similar to those in the Dining Room. Bath A also has wide plank heart pine floors. There is sheetrock between the exposed rafters and on the walls, and the walls are also wallpapered in both Bedroom A and B. The bathroom sink, and shower date from 1979, and the toilet was replaced in 2022. The closet matches Bedroom A in finish with closet doors from 1979.

The 1997 hyphen (Photo 29) has sheetrock walls, and a lofted board ceiling, differentiating it from the historic portion of the house. The floors are faux wood laminate, and the ceiling is narrow pine paneling. The 1997 addition (Photos 30/31/32) has sheetrock walls and ceilings, a mix of carpet and ceramic tile floors on the first story, and modern pine floor stairway and unfinished plywood floors in the half story.

Location and Setting

The location of the Gould House itself remains unchanged from its initial construction in c.1830. Despite the decrease in size of the homestead from hundreds of acres to approximately 20 acres and development in other parts of Chatham County, the setting on this property still evokes a rural feel (Photos 33/35). The remaining 20 acres remains undeveloped with a mix of open fields and wooded areas. Development in the area remains sparse for several miles. A short distance away is the Bethel Baptist Church and the Bethel Cemetery whose land was donated by descendants of the Gould family for the benefit of the Bethel Community. The Gould House stands alone as the oldest building in the vicinity with the majority of houses-built c.1950 or later. Surrounding the house is a mix of trees and plants from the Gould family occupation

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when the tract was operated as a farm in the early 19th and early 20th centuries. These include two large, elderly live oak trees, the only remaining trees from the original oak avenue which once led from the house to the old Little Ogeechee Neck Road and family cemetery. Another is a large magnolia tree located not far from the north side of the house. Other trees which may date from this period are the old variety pear, crabapple, and pecan trees. Most of the ornamental trees and shrubs, such as azaleas, camellias, privet, and crepe myrtles were planted by Mrs. Georgia Fawcett after she acquired the property in 1937.

Because of its rural location, the scale, exterior design, and original interior all heart pine wood finish, the observer feels transported to antebellum Southern plantation of a middling-income farming family. When seated on the front porch in a rocking chair, the viewer has an unimpeded view of the old field, remnants of the old pecan and fruit orchards and pine stands. The Gould House is known by the neighbors with its nickname, "The Farm" and continues to symbolize the heart of the Bethel Community and a reminder of its agrarian history.

Design

The style of the Jacob Fox Gould House is described as a Tidewater South Raised Cottage and is exemplary of an 1830s "hall-and-parlor" timber-framed, one-and-half story house and influenced by the Georgian style. The original plan of the Gould House consisted of five ground-floor rooms and two unheated ones in the garret. The main floor was built as a double pile plan, that is two rooms deep. The front section was composed of two heated rooms of uneven size with three, smaller unheated rooms located behind them along with the entrance to an enclosed staircase that provides access to the garret. Except for the removal of the partition that separated the northwest back room from the center one and the insertion of a bathroom in southwest back room and its expansion to the west, both changes which occurred in the first half of the twentieth century, the original plan remains intact. The Gould House retains a remarkably high level of integrity. Although additions and alterations were made to the house in the late nineteenth century, between 1916 and 1937, in 1945, and in the late 1990s, the plan and a substantial proportion of the original frame and interior finishes survive. The scale, decoration, and plan of the house fits the pattern of dwellings erected by slave-owning farmers in the Georgia countryside in the first half of the nineteenth century. Although it appears to be a modest residence compared to the large plantation houses erected by the rice and cotton-growers along the coast of South Carolina and Georgia during this period, it is exemplary of the scale of houses erected by farm families such as the Goulds rather than those built by cotton magnates in the sea islands. Its importance today is that is representative of a once common, but now increasingly rare, early dwelling of this type in the countryside around Savannah. The 1997 addition was purposefully designed to not be visible from the primary viewshed of the driveway.

Materials

The Jacob Fox Gould House was built in an era when traditional building practices influenced the fabrication of the materials and manner in which the building was constructed. Except for a few materials manufactured outside the immediate area such as paint, glass, most nails, and some hardware, the framing members, boards, shingles, bricks, and mortar derived from the trees, clay, sand, and lime from oyster shells are found in the surrounding area. The Gould

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House reflects this traditional building process. Materials used for construction include old-growth heart pine logs that are hewn and pit sawn and appear throughout the house. The irregularly shaped bricks filled with inclusions appear in the few surviving brick piers on which the frame of the house stands. Original, handmade bricks still survive as fill or nogging in the walls on the north side and a few places on the west side of the rear northwest room. The mortar, which held each course of bricks has fragments of oyster shells used in the absence of limestone. Much of this brickwork, including the original exterior chimneys, were replaced by modern bricks and mortar in 1945 when Mrs. Fawcett restored the house. Clinched wrought nails were found on the interior and exterior of the house. Manufactured materials used in construction include early machine-cut nails and butt hinges from the Thomas and Charles Clark Company from Wolverhampton, England. Evidence of the availability of manufactured butt hinges imported and sold in Savannah date as early as 1825, and from England specifically, in 1831 supporting the estimated construction date range of c.1830.

Workmanship

Gould may have made agreements with neighboring artisans to undertake this first step in the building process and probably employed enslaved laborers on his farm to work alongside hired craftsmen in felling, shaping, and carting timber to the work site where it would be sawn and shaped with pit saws, broad axes, and adzes into dimensioned framing members, planks, and boards. In 1945, the frame of the original porch was replaced with modern dimensioned lumber, but elsewhere, the house still retains most of its original framing. The sides of the rafters, collars, posts, down braces, studs, plates, and sills display the roughhewn marks of the adz and broad axe, and the irregular saw marks are indicative of pit sawing, the traditional manner of shaping framing. In areas where slavery was entrenched, the use of enslaved sawyers to fell and cut timbers was predominant since the process was cheaper than investing in mechanical sawmills for most individuals. The fact that hewn and pit sawn timbers appear throughout the house, both in the garret, front rooms, and back rooms implies that all these spaces were constructed at the same time. Besides the rebuilt front porch, the only visible evidence of later circular sawn material appears at the bottom of the stair enclosure on the north side where there are a couple of replacement vertical sheathing boards.

Along with shaping the framing timbers by hand, so too the manner in which the frame was assembled reflected traditional framing practices. The dimensions of the timbers reflected their structural importance with sills, plates, and posts being sized to withstand the stresses of timbers in compression and tension when the frame was assembled. Some members such as sleepers, joists, and common rafters might be deepened in size to minimize deflection across wider spans. Because the rafters of the Gould House had to accommodate a span of 31 feet from the front to back wall, the carpenters fashioned them 4½ inches deep and 3 inches wide and placed them every 32 inches on center to counter the weight of the roof covering. Timbers used as studs, collars, struts, and some braces were smaller in size as they primarily served as nailers for exterior and interior finishes of weatherboards, sheathing, wainscoting, lath, and other elements.

The methods used to assemble the frames were based on traditional English practices of mortise and tenon joints but were modified in the southern colonies of America in the seventeenth century to reduce the labor involved in crafting complicated joints associated with

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braced framed construction. The exposed framing members in the rear northwest room illustrate the use of mortise and tenon joints. The studs on the back west and north gable wall in that room are mortised into the plate at the top. Where there was a window originally on the west wall (now filled with modern brick fill), the two studs that framed the opening are mortised, tenoned, and pegged into the plate. The same condition appears on the north gable wall where there is a window. Both studs are pegged into the plate. However, the rest of the studs are mortised and tenoned, but are not pegged. There is a peg hole and empty mortise in one of the posts on the west wall near the plate where a down brace once formed part of the south wall of the northwest room. Farley R. Wells removed the partition when he owned the house between 1916 and 1932. Patches in the floorboards show where some of the studs were located.

The other means of alleviating the complicated joinery associated with English braced framed carpentry was the use of lap joints. Rather than cutting a mortise in the center of one side of a framing member that would take a tongue or tenon inserted into it, carpenters simply cut an open-face mortise into two different pieces and applied them to each other so that they would lap together. Sometimes these were secured by wooden pegs, like a regular mortise and tenon joint as was done at the apex of the rafters of the Gould House, but most often the lap joint was secured by nails. Because so much of the frame is covered, it is difficult to determine if Gould's carpenters used them in framing the walls. Lap joints also appear on collar beams that hold two rafter pairs together. Collar beams were lapped against one side of a rafter and then pegged or spiked on with two or three nails. In the case of the Gould House, the collars appear to be mortised and tenoned and presumably pegged (though the area where the peg is located is covered by sheetrock in the garret). Where nails appear in the framing, they are all mature, machine-made nails, which came into widespread use in the second and third decades of the nineteenth century in most rural areas throughout the South. The fact that they appear in original framing members precludes the possibility that the house dates from an earlier period and reinforces the estimated construction date of c.1830.

The feet of the rafters are secured by nails into a false plate, which sits on top of the joists at the eaves. With the introduction of the false plate in Virginia in the second quarter of the seventeenth century, English trained craftsmen in the new world, developed a method to separate the wall frame from the roof frame. By placing a false plate at the ends of ceiling joists, rafters did not have to sit directly on the top of the wall plate but their feet could rest anywhere along it, thus not tying them to the wall frame. This shortcut solution reduced the amount of labor significantly and became a staple construction method that flourished from the Chesapeake southward for the next two hundred years as the Gould House exemplifies.

All the interior walls and ceilings are or were covered with flush board sheathing secured by mature, square-headed machine-made nails. These boards vary between 8½ and 9½ inches in width and are an inch and a quarter thick. Their edges are jointed by tongue-and-groove joints. Only the horizontal boards that enclosed the wall framing in the larger front entertaining room have beaded edges; the rest of the rooms, befitting their subservient status, have only butted edges. Most of the sheathing boards and batten doors display a series of long shallow grooves with slight ridges that reflect the finish of a jack plane. Even in the garret, which now is finished with modern sheetrock, the exposed rafters and the soffit of the collar beams have nail holes spaced every 6 to 7 inches, which indicates that the room was finished with sheathing boards

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instead of plaster. It has been noted that there is no plaster anywhere in the house, even though its use was quite common in Savannah and the surrounding countryside in the early to mid-nineteenth century. There are no raised panel doors; all the early ones are batten doors, whose horizontal battens with beaded edges are secured to the vertical boards with clinched wrought nails.

Along with the repairs made to the original structure in 1945, Mrs. Fawcett extended the house slightly to the rear. She lengthened the rear southwest room to the west to make up for the 5½-feet that were taken by the insertion of a partition at its east end to create a modern bathroom adjacent to the smaller south front room. An open porch was added at the back of the house whose western extension was flush with the rear wall of the extended southwest room. A small entry room, about eight by nine feet was added to the northwest corner after the porch was enclosed to make a galley style kitchen. Some of these modern alterations were incorporated into the additions made at the back of the house by the Arndt family after they bought the house in 1993. Besides the repair of the roof, their work included a new kitchen where the 1945 porch had been located off the back shed rooms, which led to a private suite of rooms at the west end of the new kitchen. This one-story addition accommodated modern bathrooms and bedrooms and matched the scale and materials of the original house.

Noncontributing Resources

There is one noncontributing building and nine noncontributing structures on the property. The noncontributing building is referred to in family histories as the "Schoolhouse" (Photo 40) was moved to the property in the 1910s. It is considered noncontributing since its move is not connected to the architecture and construction of the Jacob Fox Gould House. It is a wood frame cottage with lapped wood siding with a small projecting front entrance covering. It also has a rear addition set on a concrete block foundation.

Three of the noncontributing structures are small sheds (Photos 36) constructed of wood and corrugated metal, c.1997. Two structures predating 1997 include a taller two-story toolshed/lookout, referred to as the "treehouse" (Photo 39) and a small pump house (Photo 37), both constructed of wood and metal. There is c.1997 a storage barn/carport and toolshed (Photo 38) on west side of the property constructed of wood. There is also a bank of solar panels dating from 2021 (Photo 41).

2. Statement of Significance

Period of Significance

The period of significance begins with the construction of the Jacob Fox Gould House in rural Chatham County as a Tidewater Southern Raised Cottage traditional hall-and-parlor home. The date of construction is estimated to be c.1830. This date is supported by architectural evidence. The architectural historian, Dr. Carl Lounsbury dates the construction of the house to the second quarter of the 19th century (Lounsbury, 2023). To narrow the date range further, the house has four butt hinges that date from the construction of the house and were manufactured by the T&C

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Clark Company in Wolverhampton, England (Lounsbury, 2203). Evidence of butt hinges available in Savannah can be seen advertised as early as 1825 (Savannah Georgian, 1825) and specifically English-produced butt hinges are seen advertised as early as 1831 (Savannah Georgian, 1831). Documentary evidence shows that by 1840 Chatham County Census there were two houses at the location for the first time since the owner bought the tract in 1809. Jacob Fox Gould's son was married in 1837 and that would have catalyzed the need to set up two separate households. Gould family lore recounts the story of part of the mantel in the Living Room catching fire in 1848 which indicates the house was built before that date. The flame marks are still visible.

Statement of Significance

The Jacob Fox Gould House is significant at the local level in the area of architecture from its construction c.1830. Within Chatham County, the house is a rare example as an original pre-railroad folk farmhouse in the Tidewater South tradition in the Georgian style with the original materials of the house well-preserved while also being adapted to the needs of the current residents (McAlester 2013, 124). It retains significant integrity from the date of its construction. Ironically, this type of house, once common, has become increasingly rare. It was not large or prestigious enough to gain new purchasers after the turn of the 20th century, who wanted seasonal or vacation retreats. The Goulds were a part of the landed gentry, but toward the lower end of the income scale. Unlike the wealthier plantation owners, who occupied their homes seasonally and left them in the care of overseers, they occupied their homes year-round. Most were allowed to deteriorate and no longer exist. The Gould House is one of the few survivors.

The original plan of the Gould House consisted of five ground-floor rooms and two unheated ones in the garret. The main floor was built as a double pile plan. The front section was composed of two heated rooms of uneven size with three, smaller unheated rooms located behind them along with the entrance to an enclosed staircase that provided access to the garret. Representative of the form, the front entrance opens into the larger main front room on the north, with the adjacent smaller room located on the south side. Although additions and alterations were made to the house in the late nineteenth century, between 1916 and 1937, in 1945, and in the late 1990s, the plan and a substantial proportion of the original frame and interior finishes survive (Lounsbury 2023).

Of the few plantation homes still left in the area, only Wild Heron Plantation House and the Drouillard-Maupas House resemble the Gould House in architectural style, "Tidewater South Raised Cottage". Both are story and a half with dormers on the attic story, end chimneys and symmetrical Georgian style facades. Of the other remaining built in this period, the Wormsloe Plantation House is a two-story Georgian style, although much modified since its 1828 construction date. Lebanon Plantation is of a different style known as "Plantation Plain". It is also a two-story building with first and second story balconies.

Beginning in 1937 and continuing through 1979, Georgia Foster Fawcett made sure to preserve and maintain evidence of these previous changes, while continuing to alter the Jacob Fox Gould House to her needs. In 1945, she built another addition of the rear of the house; however, she

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only did so after photographing the property (Arndt 2021).

Narrative History

Jacob Fox Gould was born in 1788. His grandfather Jacob Gould (1722-1797) was an early Georgia colonist and received a land grant of 150 acres in 1752 in St. Phillips Parish, now Bryan County. Twelve years later in 1764, he successfully filed a petition to purchase an additional 100 acres of land on the "south side of the Great Ogeechee River adjoining the land before granted him on the west" (*Governor and Council Colonial Records* 1764, 122).

With Georgia's ban on slavery repealed in 1750, and South Carolina's booming rice industry, the timing was perfect for Georgia farmers such as Jacob Gould to operate profitable rice plantations. During these early decades, rice was grown along tidal rivers as well as inland freshwater swamps (Coclanis 2020). It is likely that Jacob Gould was drawn to the Ogeechee River, one of four principal rice rivers in coastal Georgia, because of the irrigation possibilities it would provide his new rice-growing venture.

Although there is no documentation directly relating to who Jacob Fox Gould's father was, it seems most likely it was John Gould who died in 1795. His uncle, David Gould, was the executor of his estate and he submitted a notice in the newspaper in 1797 (*Columbian museum & Savannah advertiser* April 18, 1797). Although Gould family descendants on Ancestry.com list Jacob Gould as Jacob Fox Gould's father, it is highly unlikely. Notwithstanding the generational difference, there are clues in the naming conventions used at the time. English tradition names male sons after their paternal grandfathers. John Gould's only son is named Jacob after his father, Jacob Gould. Jacob Fox Gould's first-born son is named John. (Heppenstall, *English Ancestors*)

Jacob Fox grew up on this river learning how to cultivate rice during a time when Georgia's commercial rice industry was growing substantially. The history of his own property in western Chatham County began in 1755 with a royal grant bestowed to George Delegal. Delegal sold a part of his land, 200 acres south of the Little Ogeechee River to Christopher Dawson in 1765. There is evidence Dawson began rice cultivation during his ownership of the tract. Dawson sold the 200 acres in 1772 to Samuel Douglass, a British loyalist who also owned an additional 300 acres near the Little Ogeechee River. Because of his loyalty to England, his property was confiscated by the State of Georgia after the Revolutionary War. Douglass petitioned for restitution with the State. To reimburse Douglass, the 500 acre tract was mortgaged in 1794 with Sheftall Sheftall, a major real estate speculator in the Savannah area (Hartridge).

In 1801, Joseph Davies, Jacob Fox Gould's future father-in-law, purchased 500 acres of former Douglass property from the sheriff of Chatham County (Chatham County Deed Book 2C Folio 166). In 1809, Davies paid off the mortgage (Chatham County Deed Book 2C Folio 91) and sold the southern 250-acre parcel to Jacob Fox Gould. The property was held in trust by Jacob Fox Gould's uncle Jacob Fox because Jacob was still a minor (Chatham County Deed Book 2C Folio 167). Jacob Fox Gould paid \$650 for the tract. On September 22, 1809, Jacob Fox Gould married Joseph Davies' daughter, Ann Davies (1793-1861) and took possession of the property.

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The Goulds had five children in sixteen years, including John Davis (1812-1908), Elizabeth (1815-1848), David B. (1821-1892), Mary Catherine (1822-1908) and Robert Henry (1828-1914) (Lamar Institute 2006, 16).

There is evidence of an original, first house. It would have been built by 1818, when Jacob Fox Gould hosted "Mr. Wm. Fiester's wedding at his plantation" (*Columbian Museum and Savannah Gazette* 1818). According to one version of the family history, a fire destroyed the original home in 1840, and all that remained was the foundation and two chimneys (Hartridge 1967, 3). Another version of the family history written a few years later claims the house dates from 1751 or 1752 (Hartridge 1970, 1). Physical examination of the house indicates that the structure dates c.1830, and no part of the foundation or other materials show any evidence of damage from a major fire (Jacobs 2022). It is likely that another building burned completely in 1840, possibly the earlier house or the "old kitchen" referenced in family histories (Hartridge 1967, 3). It is also known that Jacob Gould owned land near the Ogeechee River in the 1750s, so the 1970 family history date is most likely conflating ownership of the land itself with the construction of the Jacob Fox Gould House.

The original structure is an extended hall-and-parlor building in the Tidewater South tradition influence by the Georgian style, with two gable end chimneys. The "old kitchen" was detached and likely situated south of the house and accessed via a door next to the chimney on that side (Jacobs 2022). The open center of the rear porch remained until the 1940s, after Georgia Foster Fawcett acquired the property (Arndt 2021). She enclosed it and it became a small, galley kitchen.

By the 1830s and 1840s, Jacob Fox Gould's farming operation appears to have been very productive. According to Georgia Tax Digests, his 250 acres was designated as being "second quality," (Georgia US Property Tax Digests 1832) indicating the land was very good quality for permanent cash crops, presumably rice. In 1834, Jacob Gould, was listed as having a significant increase in land. He has 750 acres; "100 second quality swamp and 650 second quality Pine" all located near the Little Ogeechee River and adjoining an inland swamp (Georgia US Property Tax Digest, 1834). The 1840 census showed he had five family members living at home, 15 family members "working in agriculture," (US Census Bureau 1840, 134) and held 26 people in slavery and two houses on the property. The original c.1800 house may have been occupied by his son, David Gould, after his marriage in 1837.

There was a heavy reliance on the enslaved people of African descent in rice cultivation, not only because of their stolen labor but also because of their knowledge of rice technology (Coclanis 2020). As early as 1810, there is evidence of Jacob Fox Gould holding enslaved people. According to the *Columbian Museum and Savannah Commercial Advertiser* on July 30, 1810, one woman who ran away was brought to jail in Savannah:

Brought to the Gaol [jail] at Savannah, on the 27th of July 1810, a negro woman who says her name is Rinah, and that she belongs to Jacob Gould, near Ogeechee River. She is about 30 years of age, and 5 feet 2 inches high, has on a white negro cloth wrapper and blue petticoat. Says she ran away about the first of January last.

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– G. A. Griffin, D.G.C.C.

(Columbian Museum and Savannah Commercial Advertiser 1810)

Enslaved people were also used to satisfy debts, which was the case for Jacob Fox Gould in 1812. According to a Sheriff Sale notice in *The Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger* on April 4, 1812, Jim, a man enslaved by Jacob Fox Gould, was provided to William Woodbridge to satisfy a debt (*The Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger* 1812).

As his rice production venture grew, so did the number of people he enslaved. According to the Georgia Tax Digests of 1821-1827, Jacob Fox Gould enslaved 14 people (Georgia US Property Tax Digest 1821-1827). That number steadily increased over the years to a high of 31 enslaved people by the 1860 census (US Census Bureau 1860, 145). This increased acreage and number of enslaved people indicates that his agricultural operation had grown from being a family farm to a small plantation. (Messick, Joseph, and Adams 2001, 52).

According to the Georgia 1848 Tax Digest, Jacob Fox Gould's property was identified "within three miles of a water carriage," (Georgia US Property Tax Digest 1848) which would have been the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal. This 16-mile barge canal was built 1826-30 and linked the Savannah and Ogeechee Rivers for the purpose of transporting rice, cotton, timber, and other low country commodities for marketing and exportation to the port of Savannah. It was a boon to the Georgia economy and especially beneficial to the farmers and plantation owners in the Ogeechee District (Cloves and Hendricks 1997).

By 1850, the census showed Jacob and Ann lived in their home along with their youngest son Robert Henry, his wife Rebecca, and their son George. The cash value of his 650-acre plantation was valued at \$3,000 and his assets included 25 enslaved people, 3 horses, 2 mules, 15 milk cows, 40 other cattle, 30 sheep, and 30 swine. Crops produced the previous year included Indian corn and rice (US Census Bureau 1850, 241).

Over the next ten years, the surrounding community of Bethel grew, and the Goulds played an active role in its development. Beginning with Jacob Fox Gould the three generations of the Gould Family have had a dominating influence on the availability of education for their community in West Chatham. In 1839 Jacob Fox Gould ran for and was elected as a Trustee for the Ogeechee District. His job was to supervise a census of all white children between the ages of 5 and 15 and provide this information to Chatham County. Unfortunately, we don't have any more information about the school.

The Bethel Baptist Church was another example of the family's involvement in the community. The first church of that name was built at the intersection of Ogeechee Road (now Route 17) and Grove Point Road. The date of construction is not known, but the congregation joined the Sunbury Baptist Association in 1825. Several association records show that the Gould Family members were delegates to the Association meetings. In 1856, the Annual Meeting was held at Bethel Baptist Church and in attendance were Jacob Fox Gould and two of his sons-in-law, Archibald Guiton and John Swanston.

After the Civil War, the Church split on racial grounds, with the African-American majority of 60 members retaining the original Church building, while the white members built on Little Neck

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Road on land donated by the Gould family. A new church was built there in 1867, which lasted until the 1940s. It was replaced in 1954. The nearby Bethel Cemetery which was the Gould Family Cemetery was opened up to members of the church and to members of the Bethel Cemetery Association. As of today, the Association is in charge of both the church and the cemetery.

The 1860 census shows five Gould families living and farming in the Bethel community, including three of Jacob Fox Gould's sons, David, John, and Robert Henry (US Census Bureau 1860, 130, 141, 145).

Like many southern families, the Goulds were impacted by the Civil War, although the house was not altered at this time. Robert Henry, who was 34 years old with five children, served in the Confederate Army along with several other family members (Hartridge 1967, 3). When General Sherman's army marched from Atlanta to Savannah in 1865, the United States soldiers encountered the Gould homestead. According to family history, Jacob Fox Gould, who was 77 years old, was riding his horse near the canal when he was met by United States soldiers. The soldiers made their way to the Gould house:

They proceeded to remove all furniture from the house and burn it. It was said that they took feather mattresses and ripped them open, broke heads off molasses barrels from the sugar house and poured molasses onto the mattresses. Hogs and cattle were killed or carted off. All tools and equipment were destroyed, and the furniture was removed from the house and burned (Hartridge 1967, 4).

The house was spared, but Jacob Fox Gould died a few years later in 1868. His wife, Ann, died in 1861 (Lamar Institute 2006, 16). When Robert Henry returned from the war, he, like other southern plantation owners, was finally forced to find a way to cultivate crops without the benefit of enslaved labor (Hartridge 1967, 4).

By the time Jacob Fox Gould deeded his land in 1866 to Robert Henry Gould, he had 700 acres (Chatham County Deed Book 3Z Folio 275). Included in the deed was a declaration that "not by wish or desire that Robert H. Gould or his heirs shall ever bring the estate hereby conveyed into Hotchpot" (Chatham County Deed Book 3Z Folio 275). Clearly, Jacob Fox Gould did not want to split up the property he had worked so hard to cultivate and maintain. However, the economic realities after the Civil War quickly made maintaining all 700 acres as a single property difficult.

Robert Henry Gould Era (1867-1908)

As compared to the 1860 agricultural census, the 1870 agricultural census showed a considerable decline in their farming operation. Robert Henry Gould continued to grow Indian corn and rice, though the crops yielded approximately one-third less, and he owned about half the number of livestock that he had prior to the Civil War (US Census Bureau 1870, 236). According to family history, Robert Henry Gould made a living selling turpentine and lumber, a business he was familiar with prior to the Civil War. According to notices posted in the *Savannah Morning News* from March to June 1856, Robert Henry Gould was in partnership with his brother David B. Gould and neighbor Alexander Rahn in a lumber business on the Little

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Submitted by Elizabeth "Chica" Arndt

Location: 1253 Little Neck Road, Savannah, GA 31419

Contact: carndt2651@aol.com 912-441-6152

Ogeechee River. Their partnership was formed "for the purpose of manufacturing lumber under the name of A. H. Rahn and Co. and (they) will deliver sawed lumber at as reasonable price as market will afford" (*Savannah Morning News* 1856). The business lasted three years, ending in a Sheriff's Sale in 1859 that included "nine acres for sale with improvements including a fine sawmill" (*Daily Morning News* 1859).

In addition to farming, raising livestock and selling lumber, the Goulds also made money at commercial fishing. According to Gould descendant Herbert Clinton Gould II (1894-1976), four generations of Goulds fished in nearby rivers and sold the catch at Savannah's City Market. As a boy, Herbert Clinton Gould II recalled packing the stringed live fish, primarily shad, in wet Spanish moss, loading it on the wagon, and hauling it to the south side of City Market, where they almost always sold out. They also hauled loads of fruits and vegetables to City Market, and according to Herbert Clinton Gould II, there was a large pear orchard on the south side of the property (Hartridge 1970, 5).

The 1870 census shows Robert Henry Gould lived in the Jacob Fox Gould House with his wife Rebecca and their nine children, including George Davis (1850-1903), Mary A. (b.1852) Rebecca E. (b.1853), Alice Isabelle (1854-1931), Ida (b.1857), Carrie (b. 1861), Robert Lee (1861-1948) Florence (b. 1868), Herbert Clinton (1869-1904) (US Census Bureau 1870, 236). By 1880, there was another son born, Jacob W. (b.1875) (US Census Bureau 1880, 707).

Many details of the home and its surroundings during the late 19th century and early 20th century, were provided by Herbert Clinton Gould II, who lived in the Jacob Fox Gould House through most of his childhood. His extensive memoirs and sketches were collected by Walter Charlton Hartridge in the late 1960s and early 1970s. This is Herbert Clinton Gould II's recollection of the homestead in the late 1890s:

The old kitchen [on the south side] had a chimney in the middle of the building with a double fireplace for cooking. Slow cooking was done on one side and fast cooking on the other. The old kitchen was abandoned later and used for years as a meat smokehouse and sugar house. A new kitchen, [built by the time Herbert Clinton Gould II was born in 1894], was built on the rear of the house and a breezeway connected the house with the kitchen at the rear hallway (Hartridge 1967, 3).

In the converted smokehouse, Herbert Clinton Gould II recalls cutting up and smoking meat, making sausage, and pickling fish, which consisted mainly of shad and herring caught in nearby rivers. He also recalled a hayloft on the southwest corner of the property, built on cypress pillars and enclosed by a fence. Milk cows and beef cattle would often stay there at night or during inclement weather. A large barn with stables was located on the southeast corner of the property and was constructed of logs on a foundation of cypress pillars. There was also a tool house and blacksmith shop, on the southwest side of the property, where hardware, horseshoes and farm implements including plow points, were built, and repaired. Nearby, there were also tar pits where pitch and tar were extracted. Although these outbuildings are nonexistent, a sketch by Herbert Clinton Gould II was done of the house and its surroundings as they appeared in 1898 (Hartridge 1970, 7). Current homeowner Elizabeth Arndt found evidence of some of these outbuildings in recent years when conducting repairs to the house and property. This evidence

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includes brick chimney fragments near the former blacksmith shop and brick foundation pillar remnants at the site of the original kitchen on the south side of the house (Arndt 2021).

The Last Goulds (1908-1916)

According to the 1900 Census, there were ten people living in the Jacob Fox Gould House, including Robert Henry Gould and his wife Rebecca, two sons Jacob W. and Herbert Clinton Gould, and his wife Lillie and their five children (US Census Bureau 1900, 124). In 1904, Herbert Clinton Gould died unexpectedly from typhoid fever at the age of 35 years, leaving Lillie a widow with five small children, including Herbert Clinton Gould II (Death Certificate 1904).

In April 1908, Robert Henry Gould sold the house with 300 acres for \$1,000 to his middle son, Robert Lee Gould (Chatham County Deed Book 9R Folio 89). According to the deed, a 300-acre tract of his property was conveyed to neighbor J.C. Ulmer. It is unknown what happened to the remaining 100-acre parcel originally deeded to him by his father Jacob Fox Gould, but it is assumed it was sold or donated to the Bethel community, possibly for the school. At the time Robert Henry Gould sold his property to Robert Lee Gould, he was in poor health and signed the deed with an "X" (Chatham County Deed Book 9R Folio 89). Robert Lee Gould was 47 years old, married with six children, and living in a nearby house. There is no evidence that Robert Lee Gould ever lived in the Jacob Fox Gould House. Two months after acquiring the property in June 1908, he sold the house and 40 acres to his widowed sister-in-law Lillie. Lillie paid \$400 for this acquisition (Chatham County Deed Book 9R Folio 315).

It was during this time that Gould family members began to move away. According to Herbert Clinton Gould II, this was primarily due to economic reasons. Although farming had served the Gould family well in the past, it had become an expensive and unpredictable enterprise to maintain. Robert Lee Gould had survived by selling crops from his small farm, raising livestock, and operating a blacksmith and wheelwright shop (Hartridge 1967, 8). Carrie E. Gould, Robert Lee Gould's wife, taught school for the Chatham County school system in an outbuilding, called "the chicken house" on the farm for an estimated 9 years, although the area where this building was located is not part of the nominated property (Fennel 2000, 2). It was the first school for white children in the area and provided needed supplemental income for their family. In 1898, a purpose-built schoolhouse was constructed near the Bethel Church. Carrie Gould taught school from 1889 to 1936 (Otto 1940). Her husband, Robert Lee Gould was the County's first school bus driver in 1916. A local Chatham County elementary school is named in her honor. But for the next generation of Goulds, this was not enough income to sustain them, and they sought jobs outside the Bethel community.

In May 1916, Lillie sold the house and 41.2 acres for \$600 to Farley R. Wells, a family friend and bookkeeper from Savannah (Chatham County Deed Book 12S Folio 383). After 107 years of Gould family ownership, Jacob Fox Gould's property was now owned by someone outside the Gould family.

Later Homeowners (1916 – 2023)

Resource: Jacob Fox Gould House

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When Wells purchased the Jacob Fox Gould House in 1916, he secured financing with the Federal Land Bank of Columbia (Chatham County Deed Book 12S Folio 383). Later homeowners and neighbors speculated that Wells used the home as a rental property and storage site (Arndt 2022). The outbuildings and detached rear kitchen were torn down, and the house deteriorated substantially from deferred maintenance (Hartridge 1967, 1). In 1935, the bank foreclosed on the property (Chatham County Deed Book 30J Folio 234) and sold the house and 41.2 acres to Georgia Foster Fawcett in 1937 (Chatham County Deed Book 32T Folio 188). Fawcett later recalled that when she initially pulled up to the house, which had been used as a toolshed and goat barn, a goat stuck its head out of one of the windows (Arndt 2021). Fawcett was a historic preservationist and worked to restore the home to its former state (Fellows 2004, 80).

Around 1945, She re-built the two deteriorated brick chimneys, using the former brick pattern, repainted the exterior siding, rebuilt many of the foundation piers. She made minor additions of approximately eight feet to the rear of the building over several years. The first was an enlargement of the bedroom in the southwest to allow for the inclusion of a small interior bathroom. Fawcett used 6 over 6 windows in this new part of her bedroom to distinguish between the original 1830s plan. In this addition, she eliminated the north wall of the bedroom. Interior partition walls were built to accommodate the new floorplan. The upstairs loft area was remodeled into a master bedroom suite by her grandson, McDonald Fawcett. Next, in the center she built a porch that was shortly afterwards enclosed to make galley kitchen. Here the south wall structure of beams was left intact, although the original clapboards were removed. The doorway and door are c 1830. At the northwest corner, she created an entry room, again leaving the original beam structure but removing the clapboards. All of the additions have typical features of the mid-20th century, including the narrow oak and knotty pine paneling inside and paired windows inside, plus the "sticks" or roof rafters visible from the outside. One six-over-nine window was removed in the dining room and bricked over by the Arndts c.1997 (Arndt 2021). Fawcett photographed the rear of the house prior to making these changes. Those photographs show evidence of the original rear porch floor near the rear entrance (Arndt 2021).

Fawcett was also responsible for much of the landscaping that is in existence on the property today. Most of her plantings are around the house or near the driveway, and include azaleas, camellias, boxwoods, privet, crepe myrtles, and a fig tree. Plantings that predate Fawcett, which can be seen in her 1940s photographs, include a large magnolia tree on the north side of the house with altheas planted under it, and wisteria and azaleas planted near the driveway. Besides the bamboo grove and pear orchard, pecan trees are also scattered around the property, there are two oak trees that survived from the original oak alley (Arndt 2021).

For 42 years Fawcett owned and cared for the property. In 1979, she gifted 27 of the 41.2 acres and house to her grandson McDonald A. Fawcett and his wife Susannah (Chatham County Deed Book 114D Folio 61). The remaining acreage was acquired via eminent domain by the U.S. Department of Interior for the creation of a helicopter training site. Local residents recall a replica Vietnam Village created for training during the Vietnam War. The property reverted to Chatham County after the military decommissioned it and is now Scott Stell Park (Arndt 2021).

Resource: Jacob Fox Gould House

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There were no major alterations made to the Jacob Fox Gould House during the time McDonald A. Fawcett lived in the home, although they did make some minor interior changes primarily to the finishes in the loft area (Arndt 2021). The Fawcetts added two dormer windows to the west side of the loft matching the original c.1830 dormers on the east. The property was sold in 1994, to the current owner Elizabeth Arndt and her late husband Carl. The sale included the home and 19.8 acres (Chatham County Deed Book 164U Folio 355).

The Arndts have also made sensitive changes to the property during their residency. In 1997, they built the most recent rear addition, adding approximately 40 feet to the home. This addition more than doubled the length of the galley-style kitchen, which was modeled after an 1880s breezeway that connected the rear freestanding kitchen to the existing house. A two-story 25' x 21' addition was also added to the rear of the kitchen and includes a bathroom, bedroom, laundry area and upstairs bedroom. The Arndts also uncovered a wood shingle roof under two layers of metal roofing in the 1990s and replaced the metal roof with the current cedar shake shingles (Arndt 2024).

Resource: **Jacob Fox Gould House**

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List of Photographs

Exterior

1. 1st view of east elevation façade of Jacob Fox Gould House (old section)
2. 2nd view of east elevation façade of Jacob Fox Gould House (old section)
3. North elevation
4. North and west elevation
5. South elevation – entire house
6. South and east elevation – entire house
7. Detail north elevation
8. East elevation (portrait of Robert H. Gould on front porch 1914)

Interior

9. Living Room east and south walls with entrance door
10. Living Room east and north walls
11. Living Room north walls
12. Living Room north and west walls
13. Living Room South wall and door to Parlor
14. Parlor east wall
15. Parlor east and south walls
16. Parlor south wall
17. Dining Room door to Dining Room from Living Room
18. Dining Room door and stairs to garret from Dining Room
19. Dining Room east, north and west walls
20. Dining Room north and west walls
21. Guest Bedroom south and west walls

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23. Guest Bathroom east wall
24. Mudroom north and west walls
25. Stairs to Garret view from the Garret
26. Garret bedroom A east and south walls
27. Garret Bedroom B north wall
28. Garret Bedroom B south and west walls
29. Kitchen south and west walls
30. Master Bedroom north and west walls
31. Laundry Room south and west walls
32. New House Bedroom east wall

Setting and Outbuildings

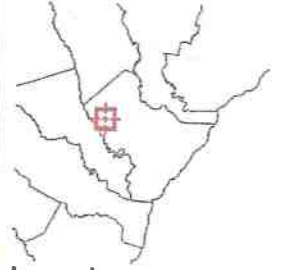
33. Beginning of driveway to house
34. Driveway with view of house
35. View of front yard
36. Goat feed shed on driveway
37. Well and pumphouse west and north of house
38. Storage barn and toolshed north of house
39. "Treehouse" south of house
40. "School house" south of house
41. Solar panels southeast of house

Historic Photographs by Georgia Fawcett

42. Historic pictures of the house 1944-1945



Overview



Legend

-  Parcels
-  Water
-  Zoning

Date created: 2/19/2024
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COUNTY OF CHATHAM

*
*

WARRANTY DEED

24

THIS INDENTURE, made this December 14, 1993, between
MCDONALD AUSTIN FAWCETT and SUSANNAH H. FAWCETT,
as party of the first part, and
CARL H. ARNDT and ELIZABETH E. ARNDT,
AS JOINT TENANTS WITH THE RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP, and not as
Tenants in Common, as party of the second part;

355

: W I T N E S S E T H :

That first party for and in consideration of the sum of TEN
AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$10.00), and other valuable consideration, the
receipt and sufficiency whereof are hereby acknowledged, has granted
bargained, sold, aliened, conveyed and does hereby grant, bargain,
sell, alien, convey and confirm unto the party of the second part
the following described property, to wit:

ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT, TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING
AND BEING IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF CHATHAM, AND BEING
IN THE 7TH G.M. DISTRICT, CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA AND KNOWN AS A
PORTION OF THE GEORGIA F FAWCETT TRACT, BEING A PORTION OF THE
FORMER ROBERT H. GOULD HOMESTEAD SIGHT, CONTAINING 19.895 ACRES,
REFERENCE TO A PLAT PREPARED BY LEO V. EXLEY, GRLS #2119, DATED
DECEMBER 10, 1992, RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE
SUPERIOR COURT, CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, IN PLAT BOOK 12-P,
FOLIO 124.

7.00
428998A001 01/13/94TOTAL

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
34 JAN 13 PM 4:02
DORIS S STEPHENS
CLERK, S.C.C.C.GA.

Filed For Record At 4:02 O'Clock P M. On The
13 Day Of Jan 19 94
Recorder's Record Book 64-11 Folio 355
On The 13 Day Of Jan 19 94

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CLERK SUPERIOR COURT, CHATHAM CO., GA.

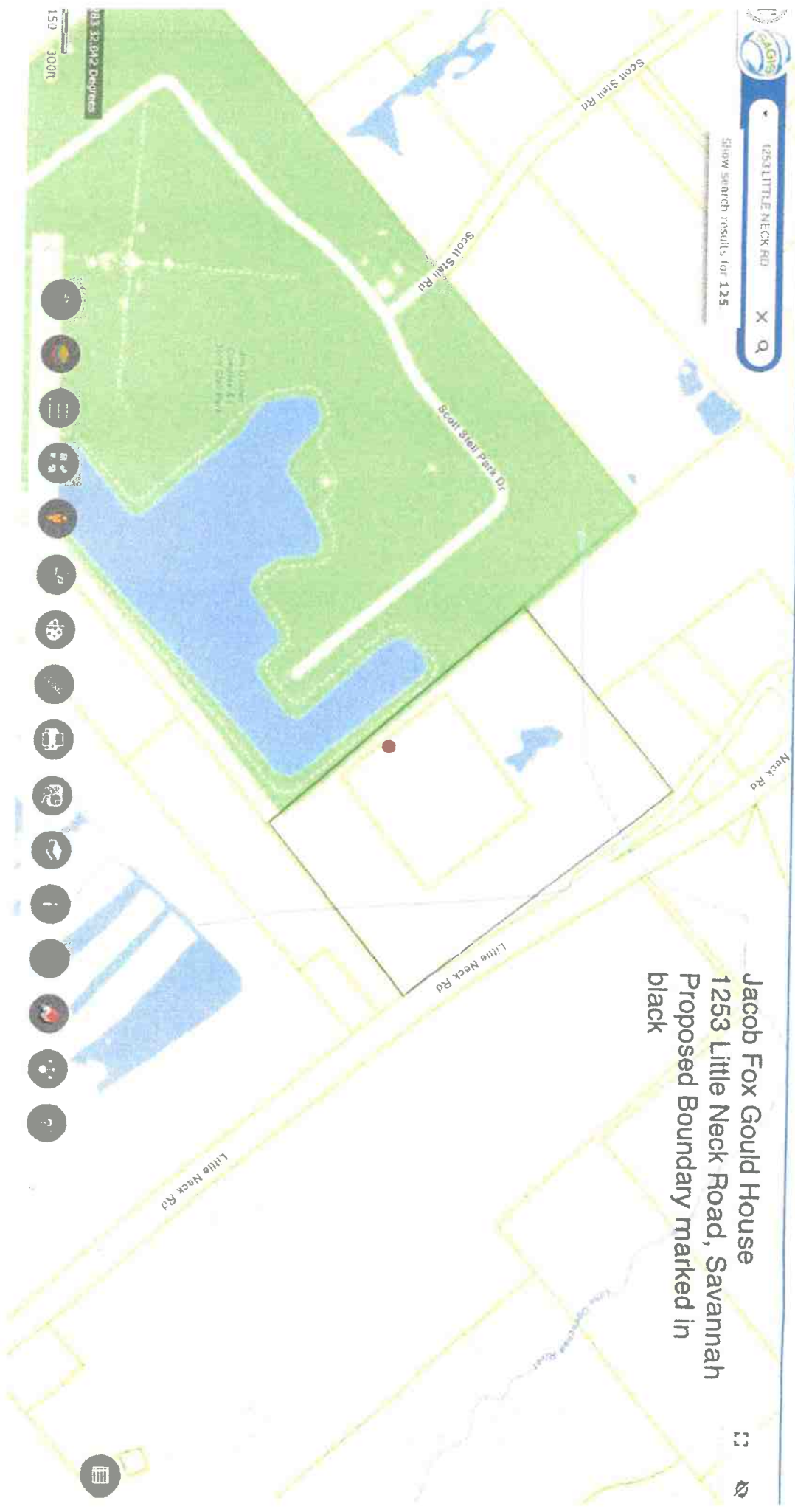
Chatham County Georgia
Real Estate Transfer Tax
Paid \$ 130.00 Date 1-13-94
Mary E. Nelson
For Clerk of Sup. Court

SUBJECT, HOWEVER, to all valid easements, restrictions, and rig:
of way of record.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the Land, with all and singular the rights,
members and appurtenances thereof, to the same being, belonging, or in
anywise appertaining, to the only proper use, benefit and behoof of

428998A001 01/13/94TRANSF

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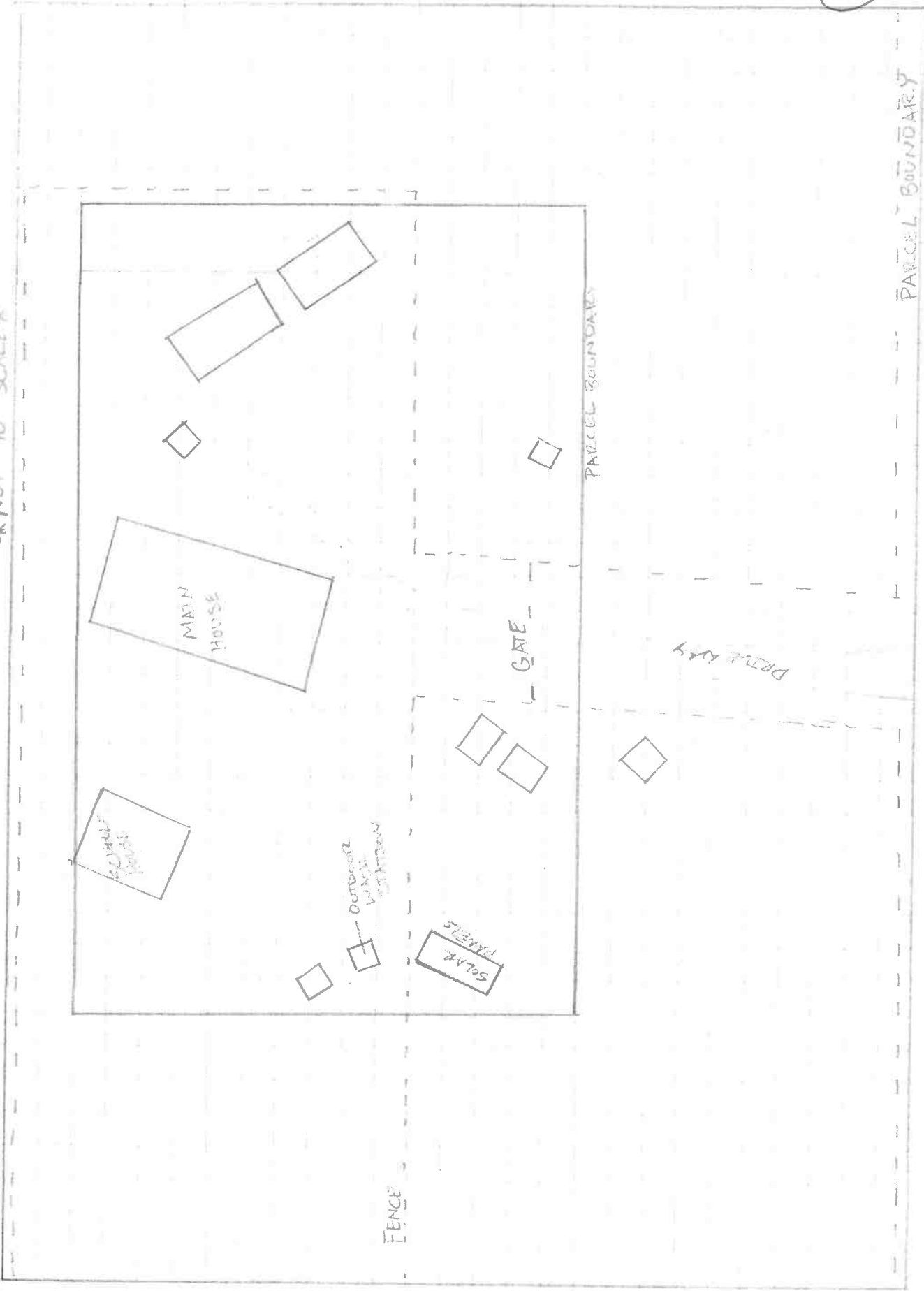


Jacob Fox Gould House
1253 Little Neck Road, Savannah
Proposed Boundary marked in
black

1253 LITTLE NECK ROAD

NOT TO SCALE

(24) 27



PARCEL BOUNDARY

LITTLE Neck Road

FENCE

PARCEL BOUNDARY

DRIVE WAY

MAIN HOUSE

SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE

OUTDOOR POOL

SOLAR PANELS

GATE

1 page a 1

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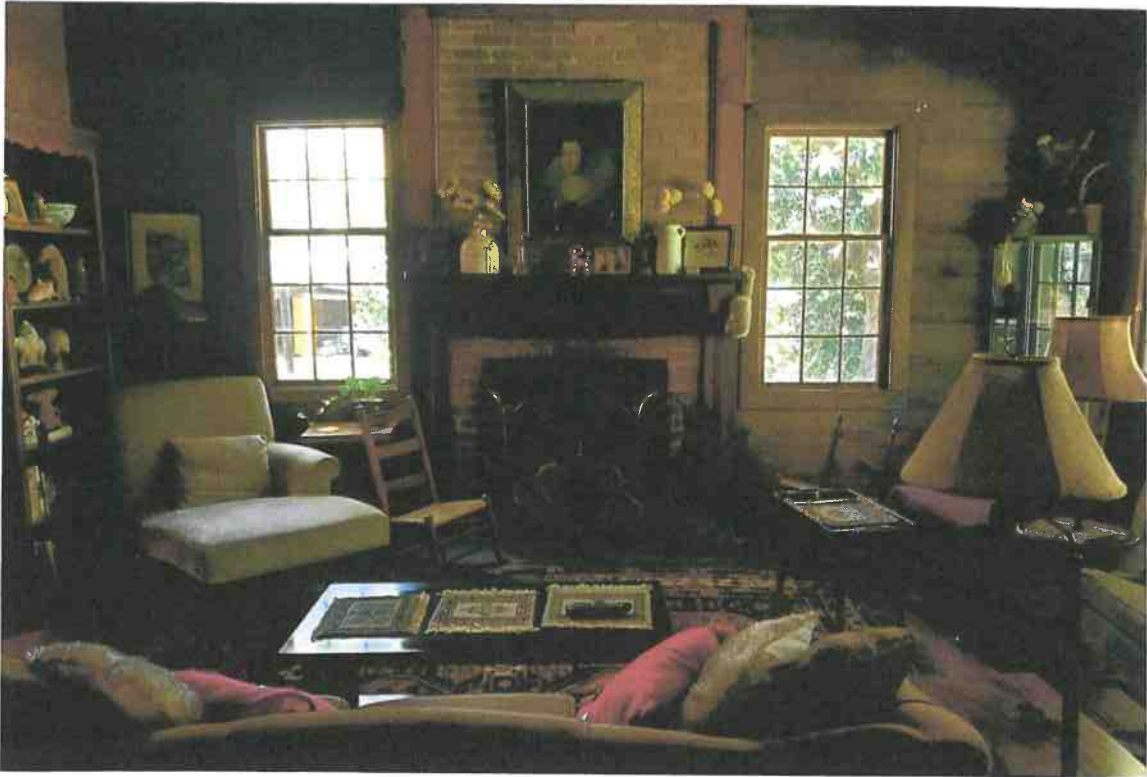


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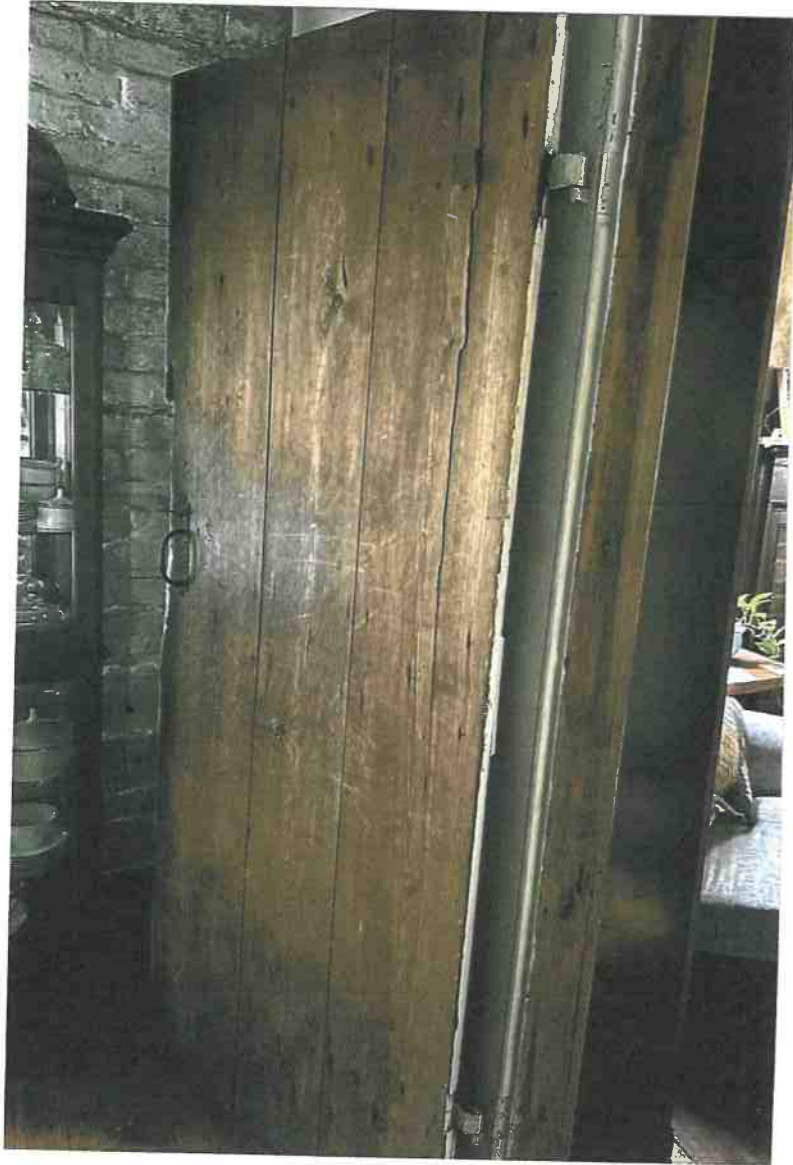


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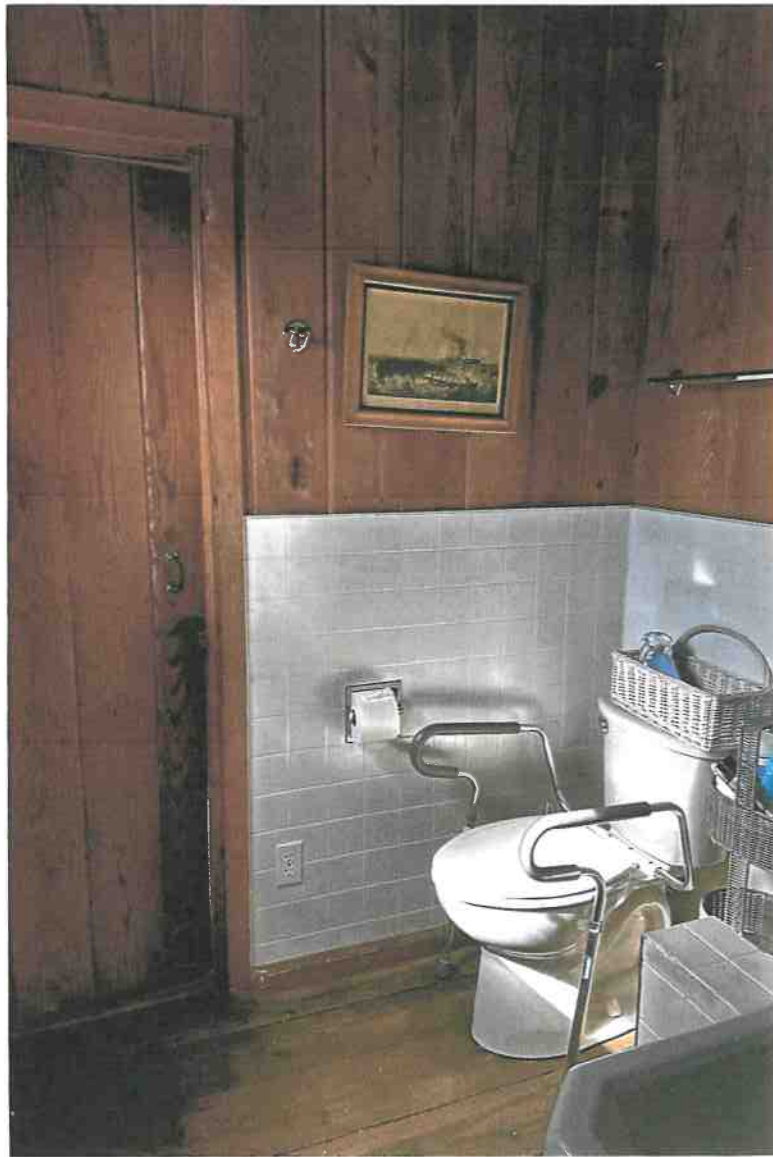
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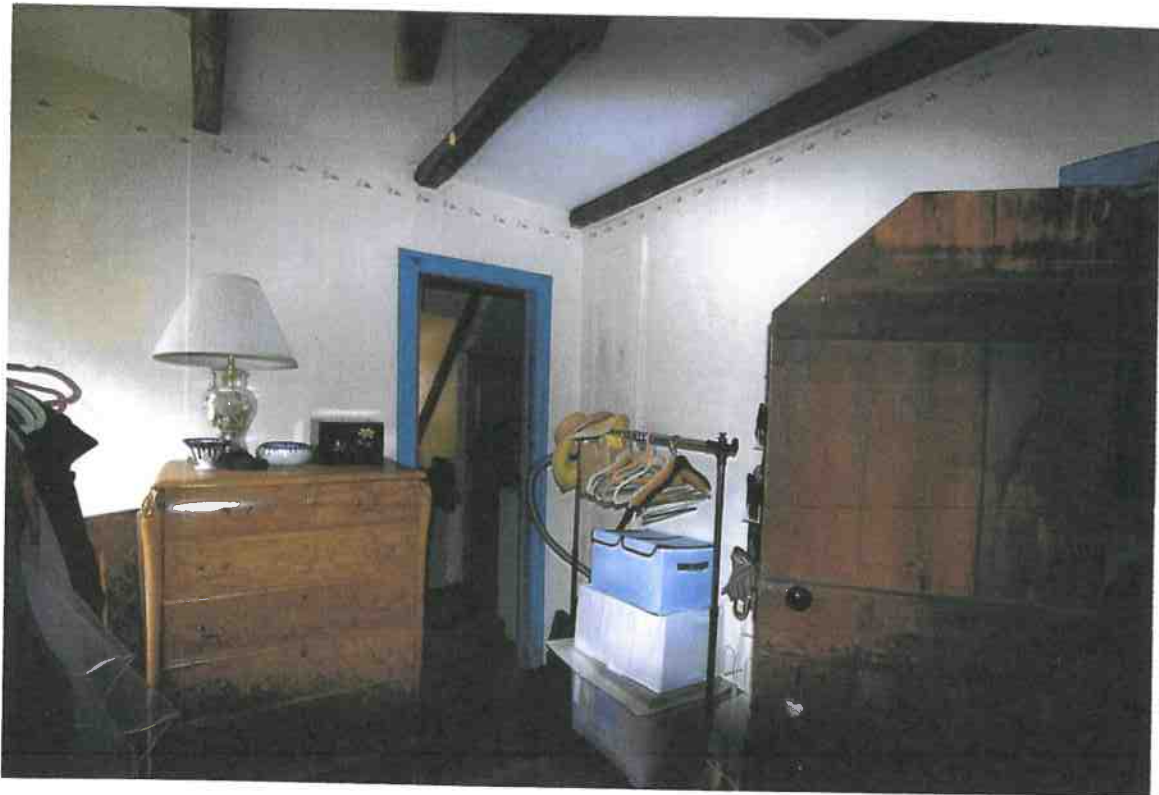




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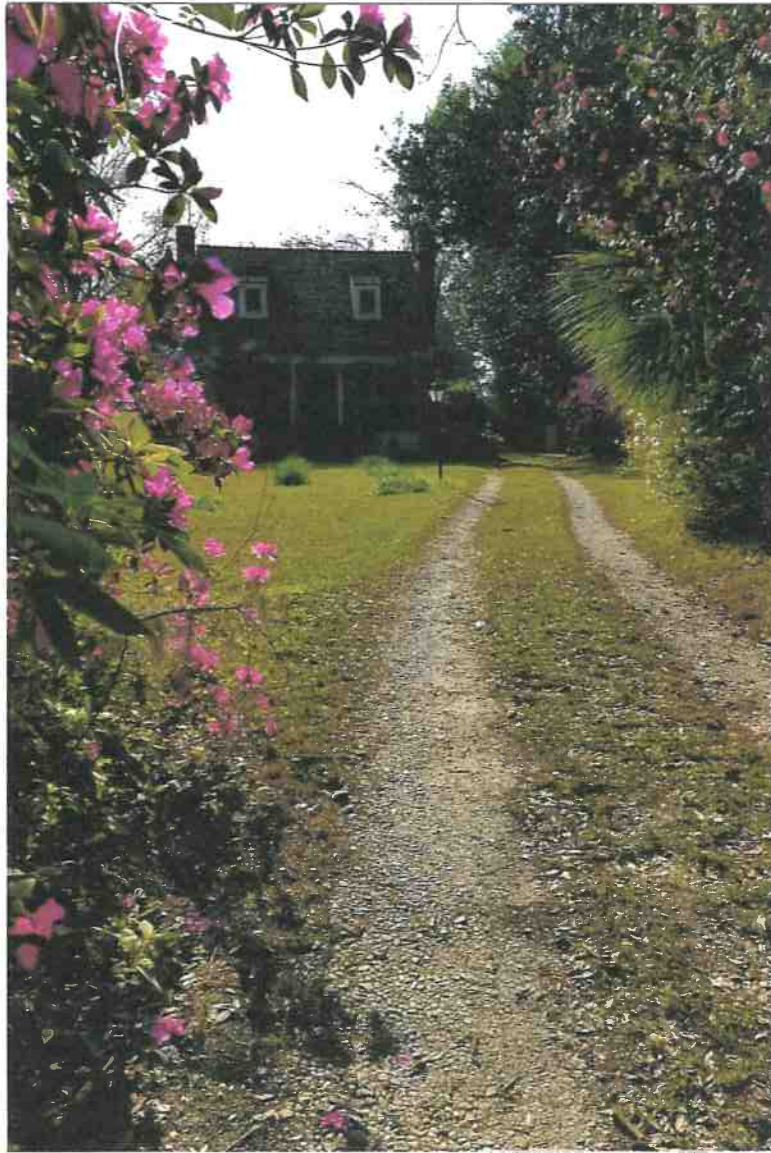


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An Architectural Analysis of the Jacob Fox Gould House Chatham County, Georgia



Carl Lounsbury
October 8, 2023

Introduction

At the end of a tree-lined lane on the west side of Little Neck Road about 15 miles west of Savannah, Georgia, is a one-story framed dwelling that was built and occupied by at least four generations of the Gould family from the early nineteenth century until 1916 when the farm was sold to a new owner. Situated in western Chatham County, west of the Little Ogeechee River in the rural community of Bethel, the Gould House was the principal residence on a 700-acre tract of land that Jacob Fox Gould (1788-1868) had assembled in the decades preceding the Civil War. On his death shortly after the war, the estate passed to his son Robert Henry Gould (1828-1914). The house that Robert inherited was probably built sometime in the second quarter of the nineteenth century either by his father or perhaps one of Robert's older brothers. The oldest, John Gould, was married in 1837 and the 1840 census indicates that there were at least two Gould households on Jacob's property.¹

Although additions and alterations were made to the house in the late nineteenth century, between 1916 and 1937, in 1945, and in the late 1990s, the plan and a substantial proportion of the original frame and interior finishes survive. The scale, decoration, and plan of the house fits the pattern of dwellings erected by slave-owning farmers in the Georgia countryside in the first half of the nineteenth century. Although it appears to be a modest residence compared to the large plantation houses erected by cotton-growers along the coast of South Carolina and Georgia during this period, it is exemplary of the scale of houses erected by farm families such as the Goulds rather than those built by cotton magnates in the sea islands.² Its importance today is that it is representative of a once common, but now increasingly rare, early dwelling of this type in the countryside around Savannah.

Exterior

Standing on brick pier foundations approximately three feet above ground level, the five-bay, east front façade measures 28½ feet in width and the original north and south gable ends were 31 feet in length. There is an eight-foot deep front porch (completely rebuilt in the middle of the twentieth century) with a shed roof supported by four Doric columns, above which are two shed dormers that light the two unheated rooms in the garret. The gable roof is covered by modern wood shingles installed in 1997. The front façade is sheathed with early if not original flush boards secured by mature cut nails while the two side walls feature modern lapped weatherboards that replaced earlier ones when the house was substantially renovated in 1945 by Georgia Fawcett, who purchased the property in 1937 at a foreclosure. The north and south gable walls feature exterior brick chimneys rebuilt by Mrs. Fawcett, but



Figure 1. Front Porch

¹ Census information from Elizabeth "Chica" Arndt, the current owner of the Gould House, email correspondence, September 11, 2023.

² For a comparison of the plans and scale of other early rural Georgia farmhouse in an area north of Augusta, see Mark Reinberger, "Using Dendrochronology to Date First-Period Houses in the Georgia Backcountry," *Buildings and Landscapes* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2020), 65-78.

which replicated the form of the originals. These chimneys heated the two front rooms of the double-pile house.

Along with the repairs made to the original structure in 1945, Mrs. Fawcett extended the house slightly to the rear. She lengthened the rear southwest room to the west to make up for the 5½-feet that were taken by the insertion of a partition at its east end to create a modern bathroom adjacent to the smaller south front room. An open porch was added at the back of the house whose western extension was flush with the rear wall of the extended southwest room. A small entry room, about eight by nine feet was added to the northwest corner after the porch was enclosed to make a galley style kitchen. Some of these modern alterations were incorporated into the additions made at the back of the house by the Arndt family after they bought the house in 1993. Besides the repair of the roof, their work included a new kitchen where the 1945 porch had been located off the back shed rooms, which led to a private suite of rooms at the west end of the new kitchen. This one-story addition accommodated modern bathrooms and bedrooms and matched the scale and materials of the original house.

Structure

The Gould House was built in an era when traditional building practices influenced the fabrication of the materials and manner in which the building was constructed. Except for few materials manufactured outside the immediate area such as paint, glass, most nails, and some hardware, the framing members, boards, shingles, bricks, and mortar derived from the trees, clay, sand, and lime found in the surrounding area, which were turned into building materials with hand tools and methods that had changed little since the European settlement of Georgia in the eighteenth century. The practices used by sawyers, carpenters, joiners, blacksmiths, glaziers, and brickmakers derived from British traditions that were adjusted in the new world to meet the specific building needs and expectations consonant with pioneer conditions followed by a more settled and increasingly wealthy and stratified agricultural society. Yet the plentiful supply of timber, the scarcity of sawmills, and the absence of limestone reshaped many aspects of the building process in ways that set the region apart from other American communities farther north in the mid-Atlantic and New England colonies. The growing dependence on enslaved labor and the particular building requirements of self-sufficient farmsteads and staple-producing plantations determined local standards of workmanship and the appropriate scale of ornamentation and finishes for different buildings.

The Gould House reflects this traditional building process that was poised on the cusp of a dramatic change through the mechanization of the manufacture of building materials that within a generation would transform the role and levels of craftsmanship on the construction site. Many of the skills and methods employed by the artisans who erected the Gould House in the second quarter of the nineteenth century would become outmoded or disappear entirely in the decades just before and after the Civil War with the rise of sash and blind factories with machine-produced doors, windows, mantels, and other woodwork that had been formerly made by hand on the job site. There were only hints of this revolution when Jacob Gould and his sons, bondsmen, and hired craftsmen undertook the construction of this dwelling.

Although no documents survive that record the building of the house, it is easy to imagine the process in which sawyers and carpenters selected the appropriate pines, oaks, and other species of trees that stood on land near the building site. Gould may have made agreements with neighboring artisans to undertake this first step in the building process and probably employed enslaved laborers on his farm to work alongside hired craftsmen in felling, shaping, and carting timber to the work site where it would be sawn and shaped with pit saws, broad axes, and adzes into dimensioned framing members, planks, and boards.

Gould may have hired a brickmaker to locate brick earth on or near the building site and employ his enslaved men to dig the clay and haul sand and oyster shells from nearby sources to turn these materials into bricks and mortar. The results of this first step of turning these local resources into building materials appear in the house. The irregularly-shaped bricks filled with inclusions appear in the few surviving brick piers on which the frame of the house stands. The mortar, which held each course of bricks have fragments of oyster shells used in the absence of limestone. Much of this brickwork, including the original exterior chimneys, were replaced by



Figure 2. Original brick chimney, south wall. Photo c. 1944, Georgia Fawcett.

modern bricks and mortar in 1945 when Mrs. Fawcett restored the house. Photographs of the house before that restoration indicate that the original work appears to have been laid in 1:3 to 1:5 brick bonding, a pattern common to the early to mid-nineteenth century. Original, handmade bricks still survive as fill or nogging in the walls on the north side and a few places on the west side of the rear northwest room. Coated in

layers of whitewash since the horizontal board sheathing that once covered them was removed sometime after Farley R. Wells purchased the house in 1916 from the Goulds, they are now nearly indistinguishable from the modern bricks that were used to patch these walls where needed as well as to enclose the opening where a window had been in the west wall until blocked in recent decades by the current owners.

In 1945, the frame of the original porch was replaced with modern dimensioned lumber, but elsewhere, the house still retains most of its original framing. The sides of the rafters, collars, posts, down braces, studs, plates, and sills display the rough hewn marks of the adz and broad axe, and the irregular saw marks are indicative of pit sawing, the traditional manner of shaping framing in lieu of the regular striations of mechanized sawing of sash saws that had become predominant in many parts of the country by the early nineteenth century. However, in areas where slavery was entrenched, the use of enslaved sawyers to fell and cut timbers was predominant since the process was cheaper than investing in mechanical sawmills for most individuals. The fact that hewn and pit sawn timbers appear throughout the house, both in the

garret, front rooms, and back rooms imply that all these spaces were constructed at the same time.

Earlier accounts of the house asserted that the three unheated back rooms of the house were later additions from the post-Civil War era, but the manner in which the timbers in these spaces matched those elsewhere suggests otherwise.³ It seems highly unlikely that if they had been constructed some 40 to 50 years after the front two rooms of the house, that they would have been pit sawn. In the years leading up to the Civil War and in the decades following it, most framing timbers used in buildings in Savannah and the surrounding countryside as well as across the upland South, were mechanically sawn, first with upright or sash saws followed after about 1875 by circular saws, both of which types left their distinctive upright or circular marks on the framing timbers.⁴ Besides the rebuilt front porch, the only visible evidence of later circular sawn material appears at the bottom of the stair enclosure on the north side where there are a couple of replacement vertical sheathing boards.

Along with shaping the framing timbers by hand, so too the manner in which the frame was assembled reflected traditional framing practices. The dimensions of the timbers reflected their structural importance with sills, plates, and posts being sized to withstand the stresses of timbers in compression and tension when the frame was assembled. Some members such as sleepers, joists, and common rafters might be deepened in size to minimize deflection across wider spans. Because the rafters of the Gould House had to accommodate a span of 31 feet from the front to back wall, the carpenters fashioned them 4½ inches deep and 3 inches wide and placed them every 32 inches on center to counter the weight of the roof covering. Timbers used as studs, collars, struts, and some braces were smaller in size as they primarily served as nailers for exterior and interior finishes of weatherboards, sheathing, wainscoting, lath, and other elements.



Figure 3. Hewn & pit sawn rafters. Apex mortise, tenon, and pegged joint. Note the carpenters' layout marks. Photo c. 1997, Arndt Family.

The methods used to assemble the frames were based on traditional English practices of mortise and tenon joints, but were modified in the southern colonies of America in the seventeenth century to reduce the labor involved in crafting complicated joints associated with braced framed construction. The exposed framing members in the rear northwest room illustrate the use of mortise and tenon joints. The studs on the back west

³ This assertion was made by Herbert Clinton Gould (1894-1976), who lived in the house the first eighteen years of his life, in a description of the homeplace in a 1969 letter. This was repeated in a description of the house for the guidebook to the 2007 VAF Conference. See Marisa Gomez and Daves Rossell, editors, *Savannah and the Lowcountry: Vernacular Architecture Forum 2007*. Savannah: Savannah College of Art and Design, 2007, 359-63.

⁴ Elizabeth Arndt points out that the younger generation of Goulds were involved in the timber industry in the 1850s. She notes that "David B. and Robert H. Gould joined in partnership in 1856 with others in the 'Little Ogeechee Steam Saw Mill' located on the banks of the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal. The canal formed the northern boundary of the Gould's 700-acre tract." Email communication from Elizabeth Arndt to author, September 28, 2023.

and north gable wall in that room are mortised into the plate at the top. Where there was a window originally on the west wall (now filled with modern brick fill), the two studs that framed the opening are mortised, tenoned, and pegged into the plate. The same condition appears on the north gable wall where there is a window. Both studs are pegged into the plate. However, the rest of the studs are mortised and tenoned, but are not pegged. There is a peg hole and empty mortise in one of the posts on the west wall near the plate where a down brace once formed part of the south wall of the northwest room. Farley R. Wells removed the partition when he owned the house between 1916 and 1932 (patches in the floorboards show where some of the studs were located).

The other means of alleviating the complicated joinery associated with English braced framed carpentry was the use of lap joints. Rather than cutting a mortise in the center of one side of a framing member that would take a tongue or tenon inserted into it, carpenters simply cut an open-face mortise into two different pieces and applied them to each other so that they would lap together. Sometimes these were secured by wooden pegs, like a regular mortise and tenon joint as was done at the apex of the rafters of the Gould House, but most often the lap joint was secured by nails. Because so much of the frame is covered, it is difficult to determine if Gould's carpenters used them in framing the walls. Lap joints also appear on collar beams that hold two rafter pairs together. Collar beams were lapped against one side of a rafter and then pegged or spiked on with two or three nails. In the case of the Gould House, the collars appear to be mortised and tenoned and presumably pegged (though the area where the peg is located is covered by sheetrock in the garret). Where nails appear in the framing, they are all mature, machine-made nails, which came into widespread use in the second and third decades of the nineteenth century in most rural areas throughout the South. The fact that they appear in original framing members precludes the possibility that the house dates from an earlier period.

The feet of the rafters are secured by nails into a false plate, which sits on top of the joists at the eaves. With the introduction of the false plate in Virginia in the second quarter of the seventeenth century, English trained craftsmen in the new world, developed a method to separate the wall frame from the roof frame. By placing a false plate at the ends of ceiling joists, rafters did not have to sit directly on the top of the wall plate but their feet could rest anywhere along it, thus not tying them to the wall frame. This shortcut solution reduced the amount of labor significantly and became a staple construction method that flourished from the Chesapeake southward for the next two hundred years as the Gould House exemplifies.

Original Plan

The original plan of the Gould House consisted of five ground-floor rooms and two unheated ones in the garret. The main floor was built as a double pile plan, that is it was two rooms deep. The front section was composed of two heated rooms of uneven size with three, smaller unheated rooms located behind them along with the entrance to an enclosed staircase that provided access to the garret. Except for the removal of the partition that separated the northwest back room from the center one and the insertion of a bathroom in southwest back room and its

expansion to the west, both changes which occurred in the first half of the twentieth century, the original plan remains intact.

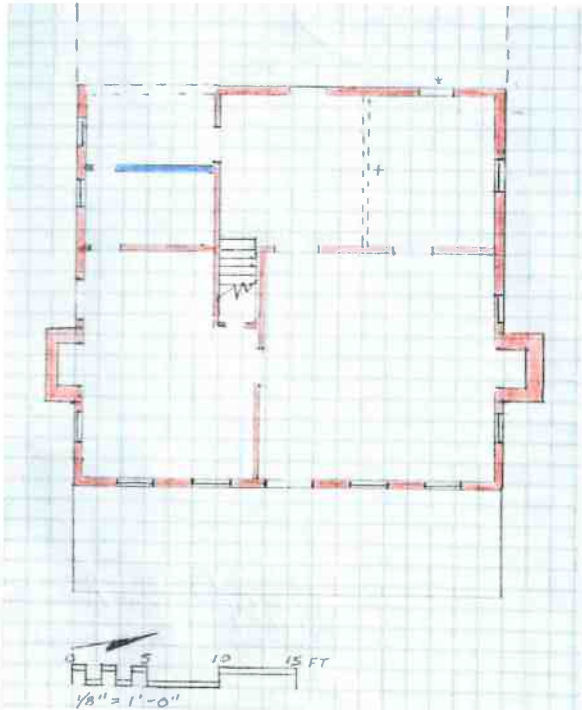


Figure 4. Ground floor plan of the Gould House. Blue line represents inserted bathroom partition, c. 1945; full extension of southwest room not shown. * indicates original window closed off, late 1990s; + indicates partition removed in 1920s renovations. Additions from late 1990s to the west not shown.

The front door is located in the center of the east front of the house and opens into the larger north room. This space was the principal public room, sometimes known as the hall, or best room, and, perhaps later, as the parlor. The Goulds used this space to gather around a fire during cold winter days or read by its light in the evenings. Filled with their best furniture, they entertained company or may have used it to hold family devotions. The room measures 15 feet 10 inches in width and is 17 feet 4 inches deep. It has a second door on the west wall opposite the entrance, which opens into what had been the central back room. There is another doorway to the north of this one on the back wall, which gave access to the northwest back room. The main front room is generously lit by four windows, two just to the north of the front door and two positioned on either side of the fireplace in the north gable end.

A fourth door on the south vertical board partition wall of the main room opens into the other front space, a smaller room that is 11 feet 9 inches wide. This smaller, heated room may have been originally used as a sitting room, a chamber, and possibly as a dining area. Like the north room, the front wall has two matching single hung sash windows composed of 6 lights in the fixed upper sash and 9 lights in the larger lower sash, which could be raised. A similar window appears to the east of the center fireplace on the south gable end. On the other side of the fireplace is a door that opens to the outside. Its location made it close to the original freestanding kitchen, whose foundations partially survive, located about 12 feet to the south of the main house. (That kitchen was described by a later member of the family as having a central chimney with two rooms on either side). Many houses in the upland South in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries often had exterior doorways in main ground-floor bedchambers that allowed the mistress of the household easy access to the kitchen so that she could oversee its operations. Given that the Gould family in the antebellum period were slaveholders, it is reasonable to assume that the original kitchen was operated by enslaved cooks who would have consulted frequently with Mrs. Gould.

Less than 12 feet in width, the space in the south front room of the house was more constricted by the fact that the enclosed staircase to the garret rooms rose through its northwest

corner. There is a small closet beneath the staircase in this room that provided storage space for household items. If it served as the principal bedchamber, then the room would have been very crowded with the best bed, a wardrobe or dresser, table, and chairs.

A feature in the smaller south front room is curious. The pine floorboards running south to north in the room stop at 8 feet 2 inches from the east wall, which is 3 feet 7 inches short of the vertical board partition that separates the two front heated rooms. This break joint runs the entire depth of the room from the front to the back. What does it signify? There appears to be no changes made to the size of the room, in other words the partition has not been shifted more than 3½ feet to the north. There are no marks on the floor at the break joint to indicate an earlier partition. It would be problematic if it had been in this position since it would have created a very narrow room; the board partition would have landed against one of the front windows on the east wall; and it would have created an awkward space in the larger north room where there would have been a space of less than a foot in width behind the south wall of the stair well. Perhaps the best explanation is that the builders did not have floorboards of a sufficient 27½-foot length to span both rooms. Because the partition separating the two front rooms is a board partition rather than a stud wall, they may have thought better of breaking the floorboards on the sleeper that was under or near the present partition location.



Figure 5. Break joint in floor boards in southeast front room.

The three rear rooms probably functioned in a variety of ways over the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. All three were roughly the same size: both the northwest and southwest rooms originally measured 8½ feet in width by 11½ feet deep. The center room was the same depth but a foot wider than the two flanking ones. All were originally unheated. The northwest room had a stove in it that was installed by Mr. Wells between 1916 and 1932, which was vented out the north window. Wells turned that space into a possible kitchen/dining room by removing the partition wall between it and the center passage room. Renovations made by Mrs. Fawcett in 1945 included the construction of an exterior chimney that was built near the northwest corner of the north wall in order to vent the stove in the dining room. Both these two back corner rooms were lit by two windows, one on the gable end and the other on the back west wall. They were both sheathed originally with the same flush boards that appear in the southeast front room. Wells removed the sheathing in the northeast room to expose brick fill or nogging that was retained and whitewashed. It was replaced in the southwest room by modern sheathing in 1945 when the space was expanded at that time.



Figure 6. View of north gable end, c. 1944. Note circular vent at top of window shutter in northwest window. Photo Georgia Fawcett.



Figure 7. Same view after 1945 renovations. Note smaller chimney peeking out above bushes. Photo Georgia Fawcett.

It seems likely that both the north and south back rooms originally served as bedrooms and storage spaces. Access to the north room was through a batten door located on the partition wall separating the large front northeast room from this space. If the smaller heated southeast room was not used as a chamber for the Gould parents, then this rear, but unheated room seems the most likely candidate as it provided slightly more privacy with its entrance located off the front room. In contrast, the southwest back room was slightly less private given that access to it was through a batten door in the vertical board partition separating it from the center room. It too was probably used as a sleeping chamber and for storage as well.



Figure 8. View from former back passage looking east. Door on left leads to front north room and on the right, the stair to the garret.

The center room served as a circulation space with two doorways on the east wall, the northern one opening into the larger front room and southern one up one step to the enclosed staircase to the two garret rooms. On the south partition was the door to the southwest room, and on the back wall, the back door of the house. The center room had no window, but did have a transom light over that rear doorway in the early twentieth century if not originally.

The stairs in the back center room rose to the east in a straight flight to a landing in the garret. Although the garret was renovated in the twentieth century losing much of its original wall and ceiling sheathing boards to sheetrock, it seems likely that the upstairs was divided into two spaces of unequal size with knee walls on the east and west sides roughly matching the arrangement downstairs in the front rooms, that is a larger room on the north side of the stair well and landing and a smaller room on the south side (which was subdivided in the mid-twentieth century into a small chamber in the east and a bathroom in the west). No doubt these rooms were used as bedrooms for the children as well as storage space for the household. The two unheated spaces were each lit by a pair of shed dormer windows on the front slope of the roof and a larger sash window in the center of the each of the two gable ends (6/9 lights on the north and 6/6 on the south). The two rear shed dormers, which match the front ones, were installed by Mrs. Fawcett.

At the top of the landing, a series of straight joints in the floorboards on the north side of the stairwell suggests that there may have been a partition in this location originally instead of where it now is on the south side of the staircase. At the landing, floorboards run continuously beneath the present partition and stop at this break joint on the north side of the stair landing. The present partition on the south side of the stairs has a doorway into the smaller south room awkwardly positioned in a tight space at the edge of the last step. A reused batten door is reduced in height and width to fit the space that is further



Figure 9. Break joint in floorboards in the garret on north side of the stair well.

restricted by the presence of a rafter, which necessitated the cutting the top of the doorway to fit beneath its sloping angle. Finally, there is no indication of a balustraded railing along the north side of the stairwell, a feature that would have been absolutely essential for the safety of those upstairs if the original partition had been on the south side as it is now. If the division of the garret into two rooms originally was on the north side of the stair well, then there may have been a vertical board partition in this position. There are stains in the floorboards at this juncture, which suggests the possibility. If so, then it may have been taken down during the 1979 renovations of the upstairs by McDonald and Susannah Fawcett and the sheathing boards moved to the south side to frame the new partition.

The Decorative Finishes

A solidly framed dwelling with brick foundations and chimneys, the Gould House marks the beginnings of permanence in the housing stock of a class of slave-owning rural white families who had raised their living standards beyond what had been possible one or two generations earlier when the settlers in this region were beginning to cast off the rough and tumble conditions of the frontier. An exercise in restrained craftsmanship rather than showy ornamentation, it exemplifies the hard-earned comforts of middling farmers in rural Georgia in the second quarter of the nineteenth century.



Figure 10. View of the south front room with vertical board partition separating it from the larger room. Note the board sheathing enclosing the staircase, the front wall, and the ceiling.

Perhaps most conspicuous is the near absence of joinery work and plastering. Except for the two chimneypieces, there are few diagnostic moldings. The single hung window sash have thin, unmolded muntins. None of the door or window architraves have any backbands or other moldings except ½-inch beaded jambs. The lintels of the doors and windows have a slight projecting strip, but it is unmolded. Only the two identical chimneypieces in the front rooms feature datable moldings. The mantels are relatively plain with no carving, pilasters, or columns. Below the later unmolded shelf is a projecting nosing that is 1½-inches thick and terminates in an acute point. Beneath this is a conventional cavetto, followed by a plain unmolded frieze. The architrave consists of a quirked Greek ovolo with a ¼-inch astragal with a projecting ¼-inch bead at the bottom. As far as moldings are concerned, that is it for the entire house. This neoclassical molding, which appears in this part of the country as early as the first or second decade of the nineteenth century, went out of fashion by mid-century.



Figure 11. Left: Chimneypiece in north front room; Right: Section of the frieze and architrave. Note the quirked Greek ovolo and astragal molding.



Figure 12. Batten door, south wall, south front room.

There are no raised panel doors; all the early ones are batten doors, whose horizontal battens with beaded edges are secured to the vertical boards with clinched wrought nails. There is no evidence of any H or HL side hinges that continued to be used in some rural areas into the second and third decade of the nineteenth century. Instead, all the doors were secured to their jambs by cast-iron butt hinges. The Gould House has at least four doors with pairs of hinges with one of their leaves stamped with the name of the manufacturer. The hinges used on the door on the south gable wall in the smaller front room, the ones on the door on the west wall separating the larger front room from the back center passage, and the ones on the door next to it at the bottom of the stairwell to the garret are stamped "T Clarks Comⁿ." These sets of three-knuckle hinges with four screw holes per plate, which are mostly filled with off-set slotted screws, were made by Thomas and Charles Clark & Company at the Shakespeare Foundry in Wolverhampton, England. Established in 1795, it operated through the late nineteenth century. A fourth pair secured the closet door beneath the staircase in the smaller south front room. Those two were five-knuckle hinges with four screw holes and were labeled "T & C Clark." The precise date range of the manufacture of these two types of Clark hinges has not

been established, but if so, they could provide a *terminus post quem* for the finish of the Gould House since the doors and their hinges are original. Clark saturated the American market in the nineteenth century and their stamped hinges with variations in the name and lettering have been found in buildings dating from the 1820s through the Civil War if not a few years afterward. If the hinges are useful for establishing the date of the house, the locks on the door are not since all of them are small, square cast-iron rim locks with porcelain or mineral knobs, which date to the late nineteenth or first decades of the twentieth century. Scars on most of the doors indicate that there were earlier mounted rim locks on them.



Figure 13. Left: "T Clark Comn"; Right, "T & C Clark."

All the interior walls and ceilings are or were covered with flush board sheathing secured by mature, square-headed machine-made nails. These boards vary between 8½ and 9½ inches in width and are an inch and a quarter thick. Their edges are jointed by tongue-and-groove joints. Only the horizontal boards that enclosed the wall framing in the larger front entertaining room



Figure 14. Beaded edge of sheathing boards, north front room.

have beaded edges; the rest of the rooms, befitting their subservient status, have only butted edges. Most of the sheathing boards and batten doors display a series of long shallow grooves with slight ridges that reflect the finish of a jack plane. Had the house been built at mid-century or later, the boards may well have been run through a steam-powered planing machine. Even in the garret, which now is finished with modern sheetrock, the exposed rafters and the soffit of the collar beams have nail holes spaced every 6 to 7 inches, which indicates that the room was finished with sheathing boards instead of plaster. It is curious that there was no plaster anywhere in the house, even though its use was quite common in Savannah and the surrounding countryside in the early to mid-nineteenth century.

Later Additions

Sometime following the Civil War with the end of slavery, the Gould family quit using the old freestanding kitchen that had been located just south of the house and added an addition at the back that included a back room on the southwest side and porch on the northwest side, which was then connected to a narrow central breezeway that led to a one-story enclosed building, whose roof ridge line paralleled that of the main house. This back building contained a new kitchen and dining room. This addition was recalled and illustrated in a 1969 sketch plan of the house and grounds by Herbert Clinton Gould, Jr. (1894-1976), who had lived in the old family house until he was in his early twenties. He also noted that the old kitchen with its double-flued chimney had been converted into a sugar house and smokehouse.

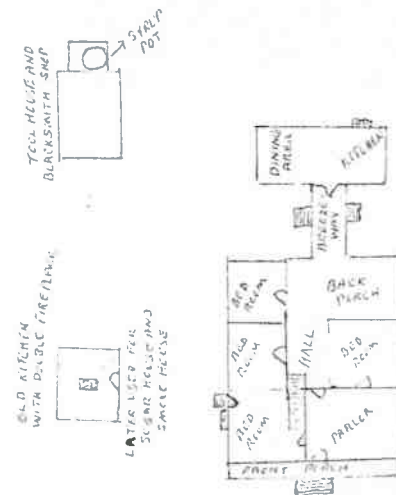


Figure 15. Plan of Gould House, c. 1900, based on recollections of H. C. Gould, Jr., 1969.

This addition was erected in the late nineteenth century, when many rural families across the South were readjusting their domestic cooking arrangements following emancipation of the enslaved and improvements in cookstove technology, which led to the integration of food preparation and cooking into the main house, or in the case here, in an attached breezeway. It is not entirely clear when it was built or how long this arrangement survived. In 1880, Robert Henry Gould (1828-1914) and his wife Rebecca Oliver Gould (1829-1908) resided here along with their three sons, Robert age 18, Herbert Clinton 9, and Jacob 6, and three daughters, Ida, 24,

Carrie 19, and Florence 12. Also listed in this household were two Black people, the cook Annabella Stacey, 55, and her son Edward Stacey, 17, a laborer.⁵ Did they live in the old kitchen at this time, and did it still serve its old function, or had the new back wing with its kitchen been added?

By the turn of the twentieth century, these additions were probably seen as essential because the Gould family had grown with a new generation joining many of those who had lived there twenty years earlier. In 1900, eleven people lived in the house. The plan of the house that Herbert “Clint” Clinton Gould, Jr. recounted in 1969, listed its spaces as: the “front porch,” which stretched across the entire width of dwelling in the east. The large front room was labeled the “parlor.” He described the smaller heated south room as a bedroom as well as the two original corner back rooms, which were separated by the center space designated “hall,” used in the modern sense as a corridor. He noted there was one “ceiled bed room” upstairs. The back additions included another “bed room” behind the original southwest room with a “back porch” to the north. Connected to the west side of the back porch, there was a covered open “breezeway” with steps on the north and south side down to the ground and a doorway at the west end that opened into a undivided rectangular space that was less than the width of the original house and probably no more than 10-15 feet deep with a “dining area” on the south side and a “kitchen” on the north. Near the northwest corner of the kitchen area on the west wall of this addition is an indistinct cross-hatched area that was intended to represent either the position of an external chimney or a stair.

The census record in 1900 indicates that the household was presided over by the 6-year old Herbert Clinton Gould, Jr.’s grandparents, Robert H. and Rebecca Gould. It also included his father, Herbert Clinton Gould, Sr. (1869-1904) and his mother, Lila Lane Gould (1872-1959), an older brother, Eliot (1893-1944), two younger sisters, Lillian (1895-1944), and Laura (1898-1992), and a newly born younger brother, Randolph Earl (1900-1987). In addition, his uncle Jacob W. Gould (1875-1938) was still in residence, as well as an older cousin, Charley Jones (1885-1947).⁶ Sixteen years later, after the death of his grandparents and father, his mother Lila Lane Gould sold the farm to Farley R. Wells (1880-1932), a friend of the family. The post-bellum expansion of the house disappeared sometime between 1916 when Wells took possession of the property and the time when Mrs. Fawcett was preparing to renovate the property. The photographs she took of the house in 1944 show little trace of this rear wing.

The 1945 renovation of the house undertaken by Mrs. Fawcett made it habitable for twentieth century living with new mechanical systems, plumbing including a bathroom carved out of the southwest back room and one in the garret over it, and a new kitchen. As noted earlier, she also erected an exterior chimney near the northwest corner of the north wall in order to vent a stove in this room, which had become the dining room. The ceiling boards in the larger front room were replaced by new ones. The garret was reworked and the front porch was rebuilt. The

⁵ Tenth United States Census, 1880, Chatham County, Georgia, accessed at Ancestry.com., September 10, 2023.

⁶ Twelfth United States Census, 1900, Chatham County, Georgia, accessed at Ancestry.com., September 10, 2023.

house was completely resided with weatherboards, preserving only the horizontal sheathing boards on the front wall beneath the rebuilt porch.

When Carl and Elizabeth Arndt took possession of the house in the 1990s, they replaced the roof with wood shingles. They tore down Georgia Fawcett's exterior chimney on the north wall of northwest dining room that had been built to vent a stove. They also removed the window on the west wall in this room and enclosed the space with modern brick fill or nogging. As noted earlier, the major work consisted of building a new kitchen at the back of the house with laundry room, porch, and adding a one-story addition at the back of the kitchen space, which provided new bedrooms, bathrooms, and closets upstairs and down. In many ways it replicated the footprint of the Gould extensions in the late nineteenth century. The scale, form, and materials were sympathetically compatible to the earlier work, a felicitous marriage of old and new.



*Figure 16. Left: Ground floor plan; Right: garret plan;
Gould House, Chatham County, Georgia
Courtesy Arndt Family, drawings by Ethos Preservation, 2021*



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Clint Gould
Secretary-Treasurer

Feb. 27, 1970

Mr. Walter C. Hartridge
116 West Hull Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401

Dear Walter:

Here is a sketch of the old house as it appeared in 1898.

Hope you do not become bored with the comments. To write this is not necessarily being a fool, but to hand it to another party without benefit of critic and editing, one is a fool sure enough.

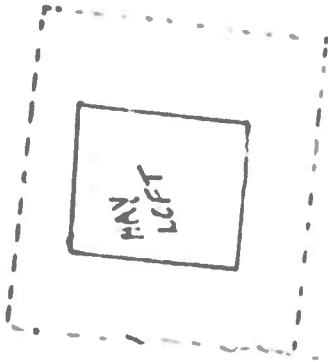
It is crude and rough. While buried in subject matter, grammar and rhetoric exclude themselves.

Since writing this I have made a memo of many things I believe of interest and I may write more later. If I ever get around to compiling my writings; genealogy of the Gould family; the Goulds of Bethel and the Bethel Community, I hope to be able to avail myself of a critic and editor.

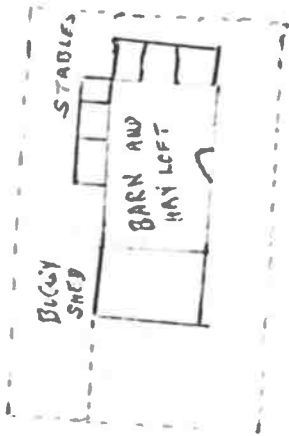
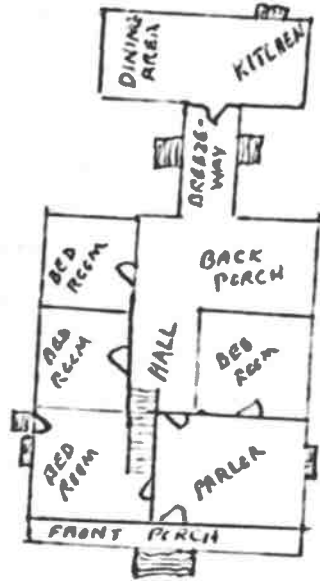
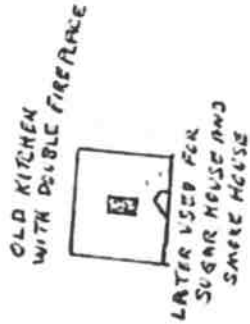
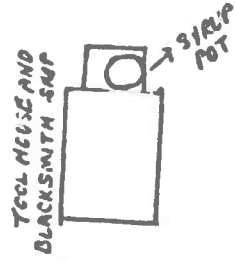
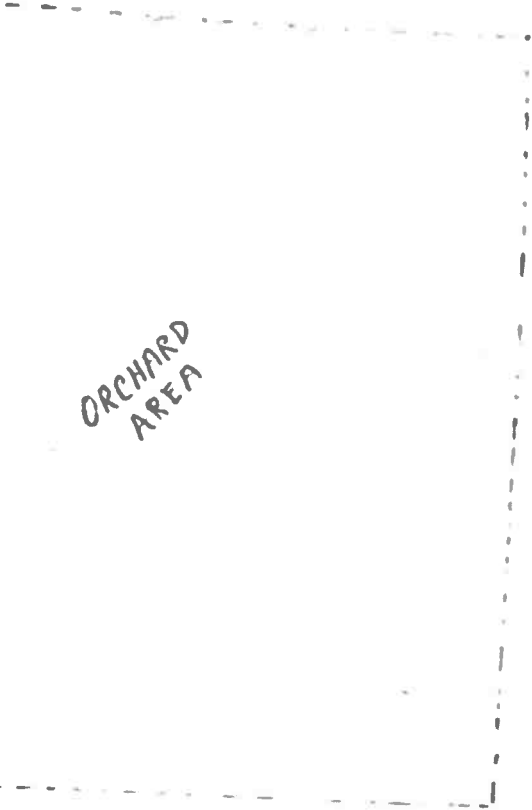
Sincerely

Clint

WALTER C. HARTRIDGE COLLECTION
GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



SKETCH OF
 OLD GOULD HOUSE AT BETHEL
 BUILT ABOUT 1752
 (AS IT APPEARED 1878)
 (BY HERBERT CLINTON GOULD II)



THE OLD GOULD HOME AT BETHEL
 Chatham County Georgia (15 mi.S.W.of Savannah)
 By Herbert Clinton Gould Feb.25,1970.

At a meeting of the Colonial Council held in the Council Chamber at Savannah, Georgia, on the Seventh day of February 1764, petition of Jacob Gould for additional land was granted. Petition indicates he had a wife, five children, and a Negro. Had previously been granted land and having been a resident for 12 years (since 1752).

Building of the house is placed during 1752 or perhaps 1751. A site was selected and with the tools at hand work began using all white labor. Tools available at the time were an ax, whip-saw with hooked teeth, gimlets, frow, drawing knife and jack-plane.

Timbers were selected, a log pit dug, logs were hewn, placed over the log pit, and with one man operating the whip-saw, the boards were sawed out. Boards were then planed on one side and two edges. Sills and joists were mortised out, gimlet holes bored and pegs used to make them fast. The frow was used for splitting out rough shingles used for roofing. Drawing knife was used for shaping the shingles and making them smooth. Hand made wooden mauls and mallets were also a necessity. Bricks were hand made from clay and baked.

Nothing can be found to indicate the length of time required to build, but it must have been several months. Sketch attached to and made a part of these comments shows a layout of the house and out-buildings as they appeared in 1898. No doubt some additions were made after the first building. The old kitchen was built about fifty feet from the house. It was later abandoned and used as a smoke house and sugar house, where brown sugar was made. A new kitchen was built to the rear of the house and a breeze-way connected the house with the kitchen.

It was here, the home of Jacob Gould, where Jacob Fox Gould was born and lived; then his son Robert Henry Gould; then his son Herbert Clinton Gould I; then his son Herbert Clinton Gould II; and his son Herbert Clinton Gould III. Six generations of Goulds.

While the original house still stands and is owned and occupied by Mrs. Georgia Fawcett, it was threatened by fire several times. According to tradition the house caught fire at the chimney in the parlor about 1848. The burning pieces of the mantel were torn away and thrown out. Last time the house was visited by the writer, one side panel of the mantel still bore evidence. A large scorched and burned place. Again in 1864 it was threatened by Sherman's forces, but not burned. Details of this event is covered more fully later on in this paper. In 1898 lightning struck the chimney on the opposite side of the house from the parlor and the roof caught fire. Herbert Clinton Gould I and his younger brother scrambled up the roof and tore the burning shingles off and the fire was extinguished. The writer witnessed and remembers this occurrence.

RECOLLECTIONS of incidents and life at the old home.

To start at the beginning, Hercert Clinton Gould I, son of Robert Henry Gould, was born at Bethel January 18, 1868 and married Lilla Angela Lane (born Aug. 25, 1872). Marriage performed in Savannah on February 7, 1892 by Rev. George Blount before "a large gathering of friends", the writer of this, Herbert Clinton Gould II was born at Bethel on January 14, 1894.

My first recollection centers around the Hay Loft to the left and rear of the old home. It was the occasion of my second birthday. My Grandfather, Robert Henry Gould led me out to the hay loft and presented me with a new born calf for my birthday. This is probably remembered only for the reason that I lived with the calf from day to day for nearly fifteen years and raised a nice herd. This relationship kept the memory fresh during all those years.

The severe cold of 1899, when the temperature dropped well below zero, and the heavy snow is well remembered. Snow was unusual, and still is unusual in the area. I remember the "snow birds", I know them by no other name, came and found shelter under the house; thousands of them. They were small birds, yellowish in color, and very much like the Rice Birds we had in the rice fields. A large number were caught in a net and we had snow bird pie. Don't remember how good this pie was or wasn't. It is unfortunate how so few, living today, remember the rice bird pies we used to make. This was a delicious dish.

The blacksmith shop was a very interesting place. Here plow points were heated and hammered out to replace many points broken by roots while plowing "new ground". Many blacksmithing and molding jobs were done there. One of my treasured possessions is a boot jack, molded by my Great Grandfather, Jacob Fox Gould. Horse shoes were heated and hammered into shape to fit an individual horses hoof, and the acrid smell of a hot shoe being placed against a hoof for checking the fit, is still vivid in my nose. Which, while passing, will say is a "Gould nose". This nose is a distinguishing physical characteristic having been genetically passed on for hundreds of years.

We had tar pits where pitch and tar was extracted and used for many purposes. Turpentine was distilled and a gallon jug was always handy for use as an effective disinfectant. Would point out here that turpentine on an old wound or sore will burn very sharply, but on a fresh cut or wound it is very cool and soothing and does not burn at all. More about the turpentine stills later.

The hay loft to the left and rear of the house was built upon cypress pillars and cleared the ground by about seven feet. There was a fence enclosing the area. Milk cows and some of the beef cattle would spend the night here. In bad weather they would sleep under the loft. They could sleep either under the loft or outside in the fenced area. One night, about 1900, there was a terrific wind storm and when we arose in the morning we discovered the loft had blown down. Everyone was certain, many of the cows or most of them were crushed under the loft. But by some miracle the gate to the fenced enclosure was left open, or the wind might have blown it open, but the gate was open and all the cows had moved out and none were injured. Why they left the comfort of the hay loft and went outside into the weather will never be known.

The barn and stables to the left and front of the house holds interesting recollections. It was of log construction, built about three feet off the ground on cypress pillars. Corn and oats, in addition to peas and peanuts, were stored on the main floor, with hay and fodder in the loft. Trap doors were made through the walls so that the animals in the stables could be fed through the walls directly into the feeding troughs.

My brother and I had learned a little about baseball, and wanting to play, but having no play-mates immediately available, we invented a game of our own. Using the barn as a backstop, we devised a game two could play. Just a pitcher and ~~pitcher~~ batter. We started with a piece of corn cob about one and a half inches long and a broom stick for a bat. Later we fashioned a half sphere from a large fishing cork. This was more satisfactory. The pitcher could throw all manner of curves with considerable control. The batter developed ability to keep his eyes on the ball and much dexterity with the bat. The game was introduced by us and the two Norris boys, George and Wallace, in Forsyth Park Extension. Later a round sponge rubber ball was cut evenly in two and this half rubber was more satisfactory. The game became known as "half rubber" and was played all up and down the Atlantic seaboard. Don't know how much the game is played at this time, but my grandsons still play the game when they visit my house. Grantland Rice in his book "The Tumult and The Shouting Dies" mentions this game and says it originated in Savannah, Ga.

One interesting experience I remember. While doing some commercial fishing we caught many fish classed as inedible. These we boiled and fed to the hogs. Balanced hog feed containing tankage and other animal proteins was not available. Once about nine hogs died suddenly. As was customary, an autopsy was performed; no veterinarian was available in those days. We found the hogs were poisoned by gar fish roe. Have learned since that gar fish roe is probably the only fish or parts of fish that is toxic.

Wool and cotton was carded and spun into yarn and looms were used for homespun cloth for garments. Quilting parties were rather frequent, but a party my Grandmother had once a year, and little known about, was the goose picking party. To this party the ladies came, and with aprons on, the downy feathers were plucked from the goose every spring. The ladies were all then served refreshments. Feathers were used for feather mattresses and pillows. Newlyweds were given two feather pillows and a feather mattress. Also along with this the new bride was given a piece of leaven to start up cooking and housekeeping when the new house was completed.

We had no boy scouts or girl scouts, but it was customary for boys to gather for the weekend visiting some neighbor. Girls would do the same. On one occasion seven or eight girls were visiting our house. We had to find our own amusement; we couldn't go down to Joe's hamburger stand and dance to the strains of the juke box, so imagination and ingenuity was a necessity. The girls had retired on pallets on the floor in the parlor. A kerosene lamp was burning dimly in the room and the large screen with a peacock embroidered on it was in place in front of the large fireplace. My brother and I sneaked down from the upstairs bedroom and went to the chicken house. We got the old rooster and held his bill tightly to prevent any noise and quietly went on the roof top and dropped the rooster down the chimney. Of all the squawking and sounds like thunderstorms and earthquakes; the screen was pushed out into the room from the air pressure; the room was completely covered and darkened by soot. With the girls screaming, we hurriedly sneaked in and back to bed, or tried to. Mother came to the parlor with a kerosene lamp in her hand but the light could not penetrate the darkness of the room, caused by the soot. When she got things quieted down, she got the proverbial switch and while applying it, Mama had a sense of humor, she broke into laughter and that ended that. Several weeks elapsed before the room was completely cleaned. Pandemonium did reign for a while, but we had our fun for the evening.

FISHING: Shad fishing in the Big Ogeechee River was always a profitable enterprise. Ogeechee River water is probably the purest of all the waters along the Atlantic seaboard. Ogeechee shad always did and still brings a premium on the Fulton Market in New York. Rights to sets along the river is an interesting story. Sets were originally claimed and thereafter rights to the sets were inherited. It was necessary however to physically appear on location on a certain day each year and re-establish rights. There was an interesting article in Life Magazine about twenty years ago regarding shad sets on the Jersey side of the Hudson River, just at the foot of the George Washington Bridge. These sets are owned by the older families of New York, but privileges are leased out to commercial fishermen. Shad season on the Ogeechee runs from about the middle of January to the middle of April. Shad move up the river to the spawning grounds. Fingerling shad move out to sea and return after three years to the place where they were spawned. After a shad spawns, its life cycle is complete.

Poor and listless it drifts down the river and out to sea where it dies. A shad is not edible after it spawns or begins to spawn.

We had shad sets on both sides of the river. It was desirable to set up certain installations; a docking area, a shack and races for cleaning, drying and mending nets. Ownership of property where these installations were established was desirable. The records show two grants of property to Jacob Gould on the South side of the river in old St. Phillips Parish, now Bryan County, and a purchase of 150 acres from Joseph Davis on the Chatham County side of the river. These pieces of property were on opposite sides of the river. On the Chatham County side it included Reeds Creek which ran from the river towards the Fort Argyle Road. Installations on the Chatham County side were on Reeds Creek.

Shad were picked/^{up}from stations along the Fort Argyle Road and at Kings Ferry and hauled to the Savannah market. This pick up was by someone who had the contract to perform the service. The pickup was made each morning.

Shad sets were claimed by the Gould family for four generations, but believe they have been lost by default.

While all our boats for fresh water fishing were moored at Reeds Creek, boats for salt water fishing were moored on the North side of Little Ogeechee about a mile East of present Highway 17. Believe this area was called Hardwick. Products from salt water fishing were for home use only and never commercially.

As a boy we used to catch fish in the Ogeechee and keep them in cages until we had enough to warrant a load. Then they were put on strings in bunches of five each. We packed the bed of the wagon with wet spanish moss and placed the live fish on the moss, then covered the load with wet moss. Upon arrival at Savannah we would park the wagon near the old City Market, on the South side of St. Julian Street, between Barnard and Jefferson streets. The mules and horses were driven to the "wagon yard" on Williamson Street, which was the extension of Oglethorpe Avenue west of West Broad Street.

Early in the morning the fish were offered for sale. At that time there were many Jewish immigrants living in the Bryan Street area. Traditionally these people have insisted on fresh clean food as part of their religion. When discovery of live fish (they would still be alive) was made, these people came from all directions. It was necessary to get a policeman at times to hold back the push. The policeman's toll was a bunch of fish. We never failed to sell out within a few minutes.

We hauled many loads of fruits and vegetables to market and parked at the same location, but were not always as successful in selling these products as we were the live fish. By the way, price of the fish was 35¢ a bunch.

BACK TO THE OLD HOUSE AND LIFE THERE:

Beginning about 1809 and up to the War between the States, there was a complete recovery from the adversities suffered shortly after the Revolution. My grandfather, Robert Henry Gould was then 34 years and with a wife and five children. He did not go off to war with the first contingents, but joined the Militia and went later. He was engaged in the battle of Atlanta, and wounded but not seriously. Upon returning home after the end of the war, he found complete disaster. While he was never enthusiastic about the war, there was no doubt in his mind about the successful outcome. This view was shared by his father. Having this view, all their cash assets were exchanged for Confederate securities. I can remember as children how we played store with Confederate money.

Sherman's army wrought havoc in the area. Jacob Fox Gould, age 85, was riding his horse on the canal bank road and was accosted by an advance guard of Union soldiers who demanded his horse. He refused, whereupon they struck him a heavy blow across the forehead with the butt of a rifle. He was found and brought home severely injured. He never recovered, either physically or mentally and died in 1869 without ever recovering his mental capacities.

Union soldiers then approached the house and began to pillage and destroy. All boilers and pots were smashed; all machinery was broken with hammers and thrown back in the orchard area. Evidence of this was still visible when I was a boy. Hogs and cattle were killed or carted off for food. Peanuts were sacked up and carried off. Feather mattresses were ripped open and heads of molasses barrels broken in and molasses was poured in the feather mattresses. The soldiers were set on ~~burning~~ burning the house. They got the children out but had trouble with my grandmother, wife of Robert Henry Gould and her Negro servant. They moved all of the furniture from the house, except bed room furniture in Grandmother's room, and burned it. While trying to get her out I am told they fired a shot into the ceiling of her bedroom to frighten her. (last time I saw the room the evidence of this shot was still there). She defied the soldiers threatening them with a muzzle loading shotgun. While this was going on, a young Union Captain came up, and for reasons best known to himself, ordered the soldiers from the premises. A sign was placed declaring the area off limits. This ended further attacks by Union soldiers.

Upon my Grandfather's return from the war, the desolation he found is just indescribable. Evidence indicates he was overcome with despair and a feeling of hopelessness. We were desparately poor, but somehow we always had plenty to eat. The road back has been long and rough. Timber and then lumber was sold when a buyer could be found. Then turpentine became a revenue producing crop. But even so, money was hard to come by.

George Davis Gould, oldest boy of Robert Henry Gould, moved to Pineora, Ga., and was in the lumber business there. His brother, Robert Lee Gould, turned to planting and raising livestock. He also operated a blacksmith shop and wheelwright shop.

My father turned to accounting, then in partnership with a chemist, named Canuett, started a syrup blending business. They were making good progress, when he was stricken with typhoid fever and died at age 35 leaving Mother and five small children. I was then ten years old. Dr. W. R. Dancy treated my Father during his last illness.

Having been tutored at home and at Bethel School, I raised some hogs and cattle which I sold, enabling me to attend business school. I started out as a stenographer for the Central of Georgia railway.

But back for a moment to boyhood. In the old kitchen, we cut up pork meat, trimmed hams and side meat, ground sausage meat and stuff'd sausage (in casings we made for ourselves from inedible parts of the hog) (unless you eat "soul" food). Hams, side meat and sausage were smoked in the old kitchen and we had bacon, ham and sausage all year around. We also had dried fish, mostly sturgeon, cut in steaks and dried. We also had pickled fish, or salt fish, all year. Mostly herring and shad. This, with dried and pickled shrimp, vegetables, and a surplus of milk, cream, butter and eggs, food was not a real problem.

During my generation the family began to scatter - mostly for economic reasons.

While with the Central of Georgia Railway, I studied law, but decided I did not want to practice. I was advanced with the railroad up to Assistant General Claim Agent. However, along about 1927 I became concerned about the future of the railroads. A new transportation situation developed and trucks began picking up freight from shippers in the afternoon and delivering it to customers next morning in Macon, Atlanta, Augusta and Columbus. This was a service the railroad was not in position to render, yet I could see it was progressive and was a service the public would demand. The railroad policy was directed toward securing legislation to outlaw or handicap trucking. I disagreed with that policy at the time and can say so at this time with impunity. I made a semi public statement one time criticising the railroad and was called to the President's office and charged with disloyalty and threatened with dismissal. I made up my mind at that time that the railroads were no longer a growth industry and that I would turn my talents elsewhere. In 1929 I resigned and have been in the wholesale seed business since then. It probably can be said that I have been successful.

Looking back over the rough road, I am grateful for the things I learned. Valuable things too numerous to list.

The influence of my uncle Robert Lee Gould, planter, philosopher, counsellor and arbitrator. Even to this day I can not remember ever seeing a law enforcement officer in the Bethel Community. Law enforcement officers were not necessary. These hard working people of integrity had no need for resorting to law. By popular acceptance, Uncle Lee was arbitrator of all differences and disputes that arose. Such as lost and found livestock. By the way, at the time, advertising at the time was by word of mouth three miles in each direction up and down the road. This was legal. Proper advertising was varified with witnesses, and adjudications were made. Damages to crops by livestock occurred. Arbitration took place, judgements were made, damages were awarded; land lines became unclear at times; these were re-established. In all these matters, he, the arbitrator was so highly respected, his integrity so unquestioned, I can not recall a single instance where his judgement was not accepted as final by all concerned.

Then there was the influence of my Grandfather and Grandmother. She had a saying "consider the source". When I would go to my grandfather about some involvement with another boy, he would try to tell me not ever dispute with the ignorant and those without gentlemanly instincts. If attacked I was supposed to defend myself and was taught the art, but to ignore an insult from one not worthy. I never came fully to understand this, or to put it into practice as fully as I should have, until I read the dueling code of the old duelists.

But the road ahead is now so bright. I have one grandson, B.A., M.A., Ph.D., Tulane University, now recording historian at NASA in Houston. Another, B.S., M.S. Ceramics Engineering, Ph.D. Physics, University of Missouri. Another grandson, a junior at Armstrong, majoring in biology. So I feel we are coming back to where we rightfully belong after three generations of struggle.

P.S. I should tell about the furniture on the raft. Someone up the river placed their parlor furniture on a raft; probably to hide and save it from invading yankee soldiers. The raft drifted down the river and up into the mouth of the Orecchee Canal. The boys found it-there was no identification -My sister, Mrs. John M. Hutton, St. Augustine, Fla., now has the round center table and a platform rocker from the furniture on the raft.



H.C. Gould
Walter Hartridge Collection
GA Historical Society

(1) *Alma Whitaker's Copy*

(Typed by the writer whose fingers have grown stiff. excuse errors and corrections.)

Prepared by Herbert Clinton Gould, P.O. Box 325, Millbrook, Alabama, zip 36054, for distribution at meeting of the Bethel Cemetery Association, Oct. 15, 1967.

THE CHURCH

Land in the Bethel Community was granted to Jacob Gould (1740-1830) as published in the Georgia Gazette Savannah, Ga., Page 4, Col. 1, Nov. 16, 1774, attested and signed by Philip Yonge, D.S.G. (D.S.G. probably stands for Deputy Sovereign Governor)

About 1778 Jacob Gould built a home "BETHEL" not far from the present Bethel Church. The first church on the site of the present church was built by Jacob Gould and tradition has it that it was of log construction and was erected about 1778. In this church services were held. The family and community grew and the old original church either burned or was torn down and a new church built, on the original site, by Robert H. Gould, (Father of Robert Lee Gould) in 1869. This building was of board construction with shingle roof. The boards were hand sawed and the sills hand hewn and fastened together with wooden pegs. This building burned in 1941 from woods fires nearby.

The present church building, on the old site, was erected by the Bethel Cemetery Association in 1954, with Moï M. Monroe acting as President and Chairman.

While the original grant for the church must have been from Jacob Gould, or by common consent, his son Jacob F. Gould confirmed the grant which was from land inherited by him from his father. The land and church was deed to the New Sunbury (Baptist) Association. The Sunbury Association did not wish to rebuild the church after the fire of 1941 in-as-much as the church was not active and services were not being held in the building at the time.

X recorded Mar. 14, 1941 is a deed from Carrie Gould to the New Sunbury Association and on Oct. 23, 1942, is recorded a deed from the Sunbury Association to Mrs. Carrie Gould conveying the church property. The church property was then deeded by Mrs. Carrie Gould on Jan. 26, 1944, to the Bethel Cemetery Association for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a church known as Bethel Church where all denominations might meet and worship. The church at the present time along with the church property is owned and controlled by the Bethel Cemetery Association.

THE CEMETERY

Bethel Cemetery to the rear of Bethel Church had it's beginning as a burial place when the wife of Jacob F. Gould (Ann) was buried there about about 1848, she having died about 20 years before his death in 1868. Jacob F. Gould, before his death, granted the land for the cemetery. The exact date and formal deed has not been found. However when a loved one is returned to the earth whence it came, that ground becomes deeded, granted and consecrated. The courts have consistently held that the dead have rights. Therefore for the purpose of this paper it will be said that the cemetery land was granted for that purpose by Jacob F. Gould in 1848. It has been used since that time as a burial place for members of Bethel Church, their relatives, and residents of the community. Markers in the cemetery

Scanned with CamScanner

(Cemetery continu-4)

stand as perpetual evidence attesting this.

In 1935 Mrs. Rosa Lee Monroe Haymans (Sister of Moi M. Monroe) whose mother's remains (Mrs. Ida Lee Monroe) were placed in Bethel Cemetery in 1899, followed by her husband, Joseph F. Monroe in 1926, called a meeting in Savannah for the purpose of organizing a Garden Club. This was the beginning of the Azalea Garden Club of Savannah.

About four years later the Azalea Garden Club decided to adopt rural cemetery work as a project for the club. After recommendations, probably through the influence of Mrs. Haymans, the club decided to restore Bethel Cemetery as their project for the year.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Haymans, other members of the Club and interested members of the community, along with those who had loved ones buried there, the work of restoration of the cemetery and improvement of the road leading thereto was soon completed.

Moi M. Monroe then donated a chain-link fence and had it erected around the cemetery and at the entrance gate was placed a bronze plaque in memory of his mother and father. The Azalea Club of Savannah won first prize at the State Garden Club Convention for their rural cemetery work.

It was then suggested that an organization be formed for the upkeep of the cemetery. On Mar. 21, 1940, the Bethel Cemetery Association was organized at the home of Robert Lee and Carrie Gould, this couple having long been civic and religious leaders of the community. The Bethel Cemetery Association, with its President and Chairman, Moi M. Monroe has actively functioned since that time. A new annex to the cemetery has been taken in and fenced which will about double its size. Rules and regulations concerning laying off the lots and their disposition will be in the hands of the Association, as well as the Association being the governing body of the entire cemetery, old and new section.

On Aug. 21, 1940, deed to the cemetery property and the road leading thereto, was given by Mrs. Carrie Gould to the Cemetery Association, thus clearing the title once and for all. The cemetery, the road leading thereto, and the church property, are all now clearly owned by the Bethel Cemetery Association.

Five generations of markers can now be found in the cemetery and with the new annex along with other developments, there will probably be many more generations resting in this hallowed and sacred place.

BETHEL SCHOOL

* About half way between Bethel Church and the present school building, stood the old original school. The record does not show when it was built, but we can assume it was about 1778. The writer remembers this building which was of log construction, about 20 x 30 ft. It was abandoned when the new school was built in 1899. The old school deteriorated from decay and the debris was finally cleared away.

is
Building of the new school was clearly remembered and his first day of school was in the new school the first fall it was opened. It was built by Robert Lee Gould (the writer assisted as a boy in mixing mortar) and was a one room structure but modern in every respect. The material was the finest; it had plastered walls and window sash with glass lights.

(School continued)

Every modern convenience was provided. These included a new heated which was heated by wood brought in by the students. A new water bucket and tin dipper (water was brought from the home of Robert Lee Gould about 20 yards away). Separate "out-houses" were built for the convenience of the students. An extra room was built onto the school some years later; it now being a two room building.

It was here "Miss Carrie" was the first teacher and taught faithfully for 47 years. A large modern school near Savannah is now named in her honor; an honor well deserved. "Miss Carrie" through the years was teacher, educator, counsellor, philosopher, nurse and almost everything one woman could be in service to the school and the community. She can be remembered on Saturday after Saturday, harnessing up her horse and buggy and driving all day throughout the area, trying to persuade people to send their children to school. She met with some success, but encountered much hostility and some were skeptical of her good intentions, and could see no reason for sending their children to school, reasoning that ~~she~~ ^{they} had gotten along alright without it.

As a nurse she operated a school clinic of sorts. Receiving small-pox vaccination, it can be remembered that while she was pointing out the curved fastener on the window sash, likening it's appearance to a mouse, she was scratching the arm with a needle impregnated with the vaccine. A whole book could be written on the school, it's alumni and the contribution of this great teacher and educator to the people and the community. Her devotion to duty and dedicated service continued throughout her entire life.

Having descended from a long line of illustrious Glens, beginning with Patrick Glen, 1576, of the Glens of Linnithgow (Scotland) it was only natural that she should take her proper place in the community and leave her mark in that part of the world in which she lived.

~~Her history of the Glen family of South Carolina and Georgia, published in the Southern Historical Society, Nov. 1922, Volumes 60, 72, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.~~

THE OLD GOULD HOME AT BETHEL

The old home at Bethel was built by Jacob Gould about 1774. The original house burned in 1840. The old chimneys remained standing after the fire and a new house was soon rebuilt between the old chimneys. The house built in 1840 still stands, and is now occupied by Mrs. Georgia Fawcett. The bricks in the old chimneys began to crumble and disintegrate as early as 1900 and in recent years new chimneys have been built on the old house. Originally the kitchen was located about 50 feet from the main house. This old kitchen had a chimney in the middle of the building with a double fire-place for cooking. Slow cooking was done on one side and fast cooking on the other. The old kitchen was abandoned and was used for years as a meat smoke-house and sugar house. A new kitchen was built to the rear of the present house with a breeze-way between. This new kitchen was being used at the time the writer was born (1894) in the old house. The old kitchen, as well as the new kitchen with breeze-way have now disappeared. It was in this old house that Robert Lee Gould was born in 1863.

At the beginning of hostilities in the war between the States, Robert H. Gould, along with many others of his age departed for service in the Confederate army, full of confidence in the cause. His father Jacob P. Gould, being an old man, about 85 years old, remained at home.



WHEN DISASTER STRUCK

Atlanta had fallen to the Union forces and General Sherman was on his march to the sea. In November 1865 Jacob F. Gould, then 87 years old, was riding his horse along the bank of the Ogeechee Canal. Here he was accosted by an advance guard of Sherman's army. They demanded his horse which the old man arrogantly refused, where-upon they struck him across the forehead with a rifle butt. He half walked and crawled the mile home, bleeding and dying, and arrived home near death. By faithful nursing, his life was ~~xxxxxx~~ saved but his mind was lost. He lived for three years and after he would call for his wife Ann who had died 20 years before and would have conversation with her. (His wife Ann was the first burial in Bethel Cemetery)

On the next day after the old man, wounded, arrived home, a detachment of the Union Army arrived at the house. They proceeded to remove all furniture from the house and burn it. It was told that they took feather mattresses and ripped them open, broke heads out of molasses barrels from the sugar house and poured molasses into the mattresses. All tools and equipment were destroyed. The writer, as a boy, ~~xxxx~~ saw much evidence of wanton destruction. Every piece of furniture had been removed from the house and burned, except the bed-room furniture of my grandmother, (who was the mother of Robert Lee Gould). This she was defending with a muzzle-loading. With the able assistance of her faithful maid Nellie (later known to us as "Mom" Nellie).

The Union soldiers were preparing to burn the house when a young Union Captain came upon the scene. For reasons best known to him, he ordered the troops away and the place was designated "off limits". This action upon the part of this gallant young officer saved the old house.

Picture, if you will, the scene when Robert H. Gould returned home from the war. All their assets, except the house and land, had been invested in the "cause" by purchasing confederate notes, now worthless. The children were sleeping on dried moss on the floor, no furniture at all except one bed-room. Pennyless, and his father an invalid, mental and physical, it seemed all hope was lost. However some plow shares and metal tools were salvaged, re-tempered and new stocks and handles in a blacksmith shop that was set up. Crops were planted and necessary furniture made. Such was the scene shortly after Robert Lee Gould made his appearance on the earth. The road back has been long, slow and hard. Faith and character bred into these great people sustained them throughout the long years of recovery.

OGEECHEE CANAL

* No paper of this kind would be complete without mentioning the Ogeechee Canal. This landmark remains, and will probably remain throughout all time. ~~See Thomas~~
~~Wamble's History of Savannah.~~

In February of 1826 a group of citizens met in Savannah and discussed the building of a canal from the Savannah river to the Ogeechee river. - the canal to start just West of Savannah. This canal would open up a trade route via the canal to the Ogeechee River, thence through Harvey's Cut, avoiding the treacherous and dangerous waters of Hell's Gate and Ocabaw Sound, thence to the Altamaha river and the Ocmulgee river up to Macon, Ga.

E. Jenckes (old Jenckes bridge across the Ogeechee River at the point where the canal entered the Ogeechee River was named for him) an Engineer from Philadelphia was engaged to survey a route for the canal and estimate the cost. For this he was paid \$41.00 per mile. \$21,000. was needed for the preliminary work. Alexander Telfair of Savannah was the first president of the Canal Company. The City of Savannah subscribed \$7,000. Proponents of

(Ogeechee Canal continued)

the canal argued that docks and warehouse facilities on the canal just west of Savannah (west of Tamacraw Village) would add much to the value of City property. The Planters Bank and the Bank of the State of Georgia subscribed \$7,000. each. Later the Bank of the State of Georgia declined to participate and withdrew their offer. The City of Savannah borrowed money and subscribed to the balance of the common stock. It was observed that property in Savannah was worth \$3,000,000. therefore the City could afford to borrow \$7,000.

The work on the canal was completed in 1830 at a cost of \$200,000. but the venture was unsuccessful from the start. In 1835 talk was started about building the Central Railroad from Savannah to Macon and this railroad with branch lines would result in a more efficient trade route. As the railroad project developed the potential value of the canal lessened and it was advertised for sale in 1842. An offer was made by a woman to buy the canal but she later withdrew the offer. The canal was then abandoned. In 1835 money was being raised for the building of the railroad to Macon and the project was completed to Macon in 1843. Money was raised by the sale of common stock, bonds and certificates. At one time Central Railroad Certificates circulated freely as currency. The History of the Central Railroad (Now the Central of Georgia) is now well known (1967).

Due to the difference in elevation of the Savannah River and the Ogeechee River, it was necessary to build four locks: One at the entrance to the Savannah River, one at the Savage Swamp Backwater, one at the Little Ogeechee Backwater, and one at the entrance to the Ogeechee River. The deep hole at the Ogeechee Backwater (near Bethel) known as "Half Moon" and "The Sluice" were made by a washout where the dam broke at the spill-way during a freshet. *A great rise in water level of Savannah caused up heavy rain in the vicinity Savannah*

Prior to the Central Railroad project, everyone in around Bethel believed they would eventually see a great waterway channel of commerce through the area.

GOULD AND GLEN FAMILY
(Robert Lee Gould and Carrie Glen Gould)

Robert Lee Gould and Carrie Glen Gould both attained that standing in the community as would be expected of people with their background and ancestry. This man was a religious and community leader, farmer, blacksmith, wheelwright, philosopher and counsellor. During the boyhood of the writer there seemed to be no need for law enforcement officers in the community and I was almost a grown man before I ever saw an Officer of the Law. All disputes and differences were settled without resort to law and the courts. This man was unofficially recognized as arbitrator of all differences and disagreements. A single case where his judgement and decision was ever questioned can not be remembered. Such was the esteem in which this man was held.

It is a striking paralell that when following an altercation, John Armstrong Wylly was shot and killed by Dr. Thomas Fuller Hazzard on St. Simons Island on Dec. 3, 1838, and when feeling was running high between the relatives and friends on both sides, that James Gould, a distant cousin of Robert Lee Gould, was appointed chairman of a committee to preserve peace and prevent further bloodshed. *(I have written in my family's Journal" by Margaret Davis GLEA, Georgia Historical Society Quarterly March 1960)*

This great man (Robert Lee Gould) descended from Baring Gould of Lew Trenchard (England) 1507-(1. See Burke's Genealogy and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain -929.7 B) took his proper place and assumed his responsibility to the community in which he lived and it is fitting that his memory be preserved by this plaque at Bethel Church being dedicated today.

(6)

(Gould and Glen Family continued)

Carrie Glen Gould, wife, mother, teacher, educator, nurse and social worker. She gave unselfishly of herself for the Bethel School and Church for 47 years Throughout her long life she was an inspiration to all who knew her. She gave the full measure of devotion, made her mark in this world and it can truly be said the world is better off because she lived. Therefore it is proper and fitting that her memory be preserved by this plaque we are dedicating at Bethel Church today.

Respectfully,

Herbert Clinton Gould

If anyone knows the whereabouts of the old Robert H. Gould bible, a book about four inches thick and had a brass clasp fastening the book when closed, information would be appreciated. The writer would like to examine it in search of helpful data in connection with a book being written. (Adv.)

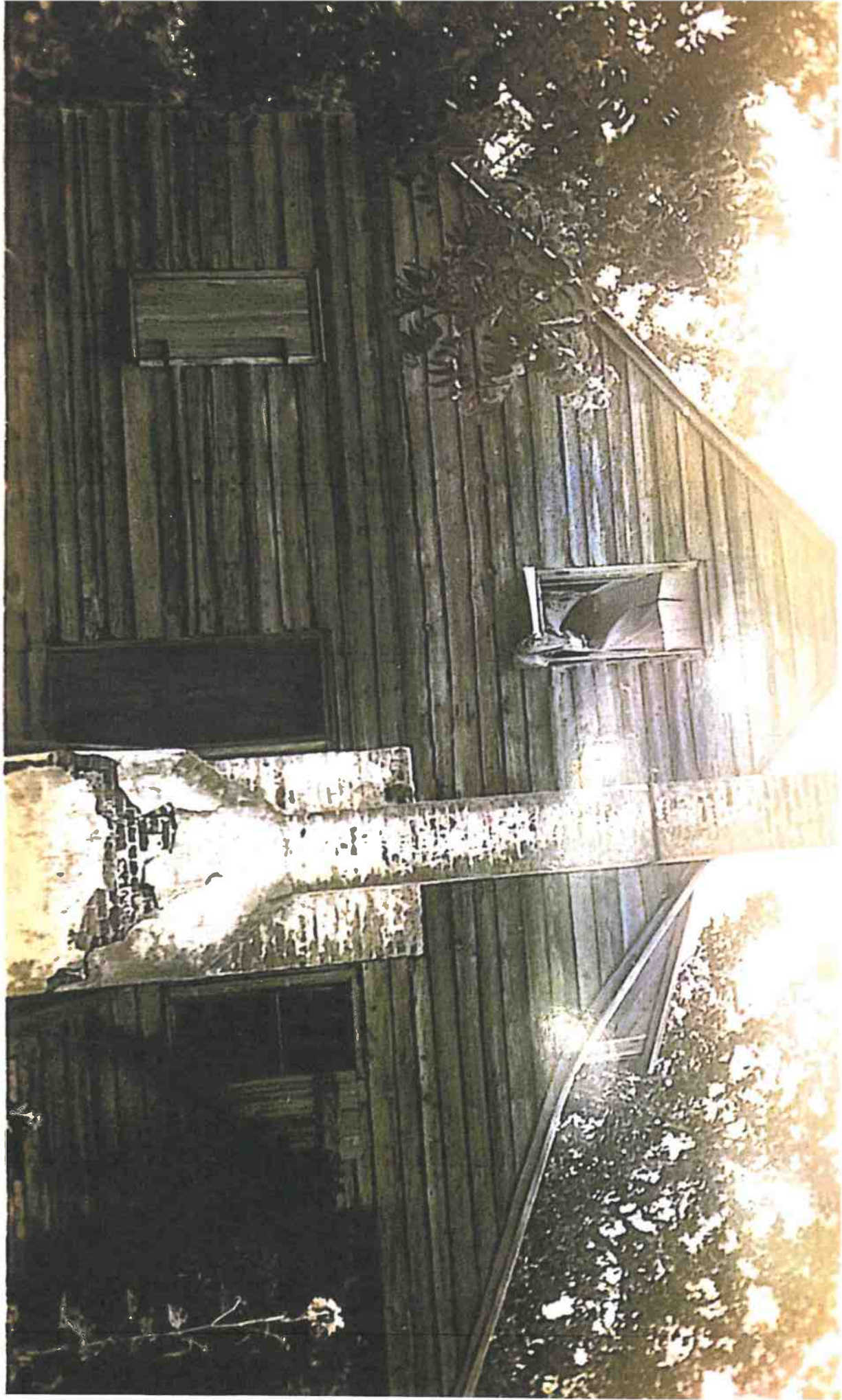


15508 or 18405

1950 Morgan's Journal

photo of pen

pen to 1945 remodelled
pen to 1944



~~1958~~ Sawyer
1930'' Forest plot
or 1940s of fan

Prun to 1985. remodded
Prob. 1944





Half-Dime Continuum
1999



Lucy M. Brown

1855



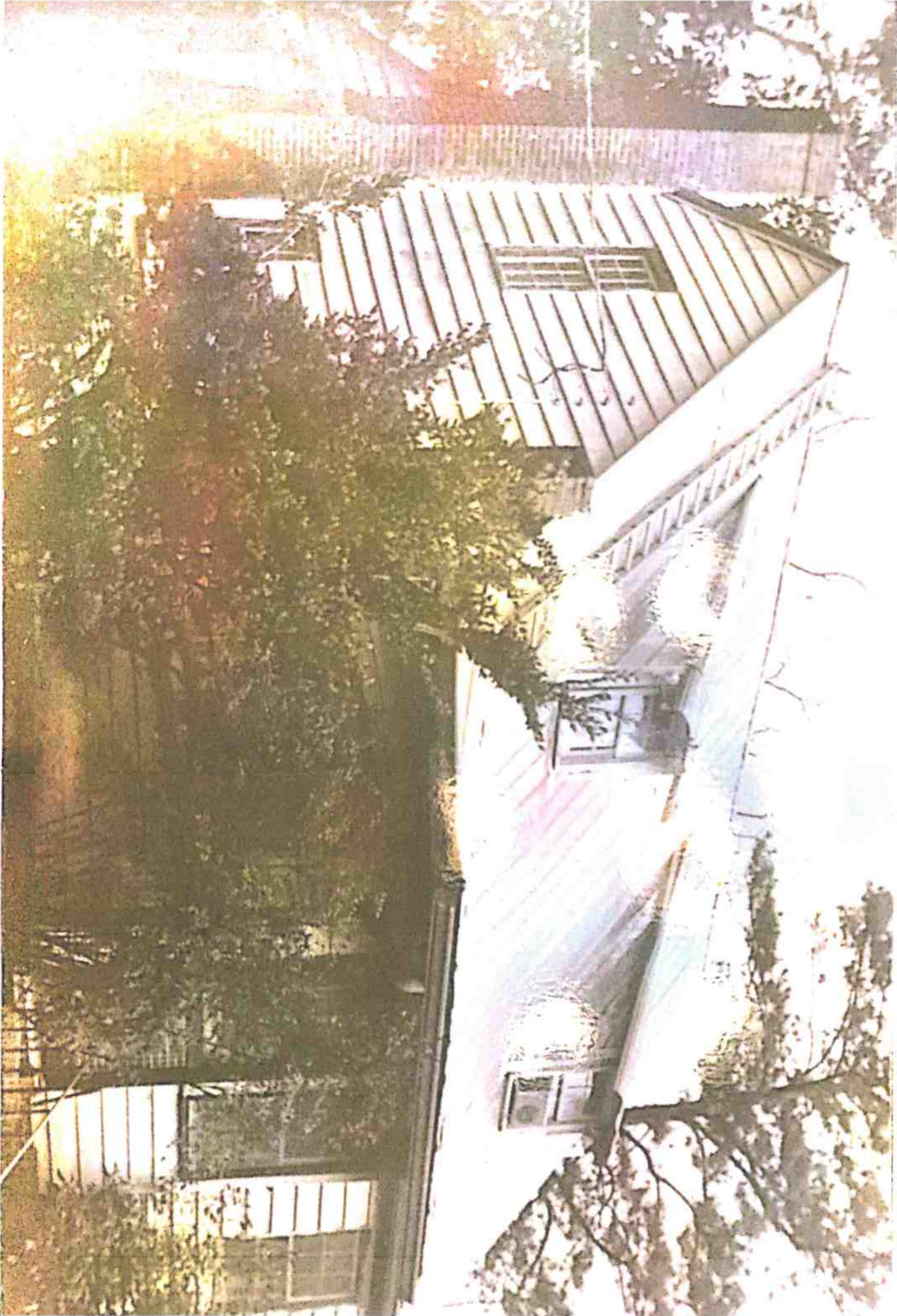
1945
~~1950's or 1960's~~
George Fawcett's
Photo of Jim



H. G. Mason

Sergei Fawell Photo

1800 - 1945





MANY OF BETHEL COMMUNITY'S FOREBARS ARE BURIED IN THIS CEMETERY
Community Is Located About 15 Miles From Savannah on Highway 17 South



HOWARD MAVROMAT HEADS CEMETERY GROUP
He's Standing in Front of Graveyard Gates

Founders Honored Today

Bethel Community Retains Its Heritage

By DENNY LUSTER
Staff Writer

Returning from war, Robert H. Gould found nothing but the peaceful scene he had left. By purchasing Confederate bonds, new worthless, his family had invested all their assets, except their home and land, in the fight for Southern independence.

The young soldier found that the Yankees had pillaged the area. He found the children sleeping on dried rums on the floor of a damaged home, and his father, both physically and mentally, an invalid.

Yet, plow shares and metal tools were salvaged, crops were planted and furniture made.

The tale is similar to many others of Civil War days, but more picturesque because the storyteller is a descendant of Jacob Gould, an early settler and leader of the Bethel Community, a small plantation settlement located about 15 miles southwest of Savannah off Highway 17.

The account was in a speech given to the Bethel Cemetery Association some time ago by Herbert "Clint" Gould, who now lives in Florida. The young man portrayed in the tale, Robert H. Gould, was the grandfather of the storyteller.

'Read Back'

"The road back has been long, slow and hard. Faith and character bred into these great people sustained them throughout the long years of recovery.

Robert H. Gould, his family and their descendants are among early settlers buried in the Bethel Cemetery, which, oddly enough, continues to be a testament of camaraderie among community residents.

Faith and character would seem to be the hallmarks of those living in



'MISS CARRIE'
School Named for Her

Bethel Community throughout the years. Bypassed by the wealth and growth that came to Savannah, Bethel today is a small collection of buildings on the western edge of Chatham County. Many county residents do not realize that it has a history of its own, or that it is said to be the second-oldest European settlement in the state. Yet Bethel residents remember their heritage, and they are working to keep it alive.

'Further Than Records'

"The age of Bethel Community dates back further than records go," said Mrs. Jessie Grooms Beck, a teacher at Carrie E. Gould Elementary School, who wrote about the community several years ago. "When Oglethorpe landed in 1733," she explained, "he found it (the Bethel area) to be inhabited by Indians."

Oglethorpe built a fort—known as Fort Argyle—about 18 miles up the Ogeechee River, "at a shallow place, where the Indians cross the river in going from Carolina to Florida. This second settlement of Georgia was called Fort Argyle."

Remains of Fort Argyle are still discernable on the Litchfield Plantation, once the home of Gov. James Wright, the third and last provincial governor of Georgia, she said.

Playing an important role in the lives of Bethel Community inhabitants was the Ogeechee Canal, which served as the main artery of transportation from the Ogeechee River and Fort Argyle to Savannah in colonial days.

In 1855, however, when talk circulated about building the Central Railroad—later known as the Central of Georgia—and as the railroad project developed, the value of the canal waned, both Clint Gould and Mrs. Beck noted. The canal finally was abandoned as a major inland waterway when the railroad was completed to Mocco in 1863.

With the decline of traffic on the canal, Bethel's chances for growth as a community ended, and it remained a plantation community, its history and buildings heavily intertwined with the story of the Gould family.

Living on a large reservoir called Half-Moon, a basin for the canal was the Gould family, said to be distant cousins of the Goulds who settled St. Simons Island and who have been written about by Eugenia Price. Through out the years interrelated community leaders, the Goulds left a lasting mark on the Bethel Community.

Land there was granted to Jacob Gould Nov. 16, 1774, according to Clint Gould's account, and not long after, Gould built a home, "Bethel," close to the site of today's Bethel Baptist Church. The same Jacob Gould was the benefactor and donor of land for

the old Bethel School, which is no longer in existence but was the forerunner of Gould Elementary. Bethel Church and Bethel Cemetery.

The first Bethel home at Bethel was built by Jacob Gould and, buried in 1860, according to Clint Gould. The old chimneys remained after the fire, and a new house was soon constructed between the landmarks. This house still stands and is now occupied by Mrs. Georgina Fawcett.

It was in this rather meager house that several generations of Goulds were born.

Mrs. Fawcett, who moved into the house in 1945, said she was born in the country and "I love it." Mills B. Lane IV is writing a history of early American homes, she said, and has chosen to include the old Gould home in his account.

"It's going to be a pictorial history," she explained. "He is having the documentation done by some members of the Georgia Historical Society."

Old Map

Admiring she is not sure of her home's age, Mrs. Fawcett's information differed somewhat from that of Clint Gould. A small map drawn by the area and given to her by the late historian Walker Hartsger shows a house at the site and it dated 1782, she said.

But she conceded her home may not be the original one.

Of big construction, the first Bethel School is thought to have been built in about 1778, Clint Gould estimated. Replaced by a new school in 1895, the old structure deteriorated and the debris eventually was cleared away.

Robert Lee Gould built the later school, assisted by his son, Clint, who razed the mortar.

"The material was the finest it had plastered walls and windows sash with glass lighter," Clint Gould remem-

bered. Every modern convenience was provided.

These "conveniences" included a new heater-heated by wood brought in by the students, a new water bucket and tin dipper and separate "out houses" for the convenience of the students.

Here Mrs. Carrie E. Gould, Clint's mother, known affectionately as "Miss Carrie," was the first teacher and taught faithfully for 47 years. The woman for whom Gould Elementary was named "Miss Carrie" was "teacher, educator, counselor, philosopher, nurse and almost everything one woman could be in service to the school and the community."

She can be remembered on Saturday after Saturday, harnessing up her horse and buggy and driving all day throughout the area, trying to persuade people to send their children to school," said Gould. "She met with some success, but encountered much hostility and some were skeptical of her good intentions," he added.

In order to make way for the construction of Little Neck Road, the second school building was torn down in 1970.

Built by Jacob Gould, the first church in Bethel Community was erected about 1778 and made of logs, as tradition has it.

In this church services were held, wrote Clint Gould. "The family, and community grew."

But as was the fate of so many Colonial Era buildings, the original church likely burned down and a new church, the project of Robert H. Gould, went up on the site.

The boards were hand-sawn and the sills hand-beam and fastened together with wooden pegs, but this building burned in 1941 from woods fires nearby.

The present church building on the

old site was erected by the Bethel Cemetery Association in 1964, with the late Mrs. M. Monroe acting as president and chairman of the project.

Although Bethel Church has been reactivated seven times, said Mrs. Mary Clark, a member of the church, she believes today's congregation will not come to a halt.

The last time the church reopened, Aug. 22, 1971, "everybody said the doors will be frozen together again in three months," Mrs. Clark recalled. "Everybody said it wouldn't take...it never has. But I've known all along it would."

Today activity abounds and new construction surrounds the church, a nucleus of the Bethel Community.

Much of new life of the church may be attributed to the interest and vigor of members of the Bethel Cemetery Association.

Bethel Cemetery, situated across Little Neck Road from Bethel Church, had its beginning as a burial place when the wife of Jacob F. Gould (Anna) was buried there about 1848. (It has been used since that time as a graveyard for members of Bethel Church, their relatives and others living in the community.)

Among old Savannah area families represented in the burial place are the Goulds, Sheffalls, Foyes of Fox and Weeks Funeral Home, and Monroes.

In 1935 Mrs. Rosa Lee Monroe Haymans, whose mother and husband were buried in the graveyard, called a meeting with the purpose of organizing a garden club.

About four years later members of the Azalea Garden Club decided to take on rural cemetery work as a project (part of the garden club's work grew the Bethel Cemetery Association, organized at the home of Robert Lee and Carrie Gould in 1940. The group has functioned actively since that time.)

The association now has a dual purpose—to keep up Bethel Church and the cemetery. Today the organization will hold its annual meeting at the church, beginning with a feast prepared by the ladies of the group at 7 p.m.

At 2 p.m. the annual business session will begin and at 3 p.m. a special plaque in honor of early Bethel settlers, the Monroe family, will be unveiled.

Among the newer Bethel residents are Mrs. Clark and her husband, Benjamin, who have lived there for some years. Mrs. Clark possesses a deep appreciation for the land and its people.

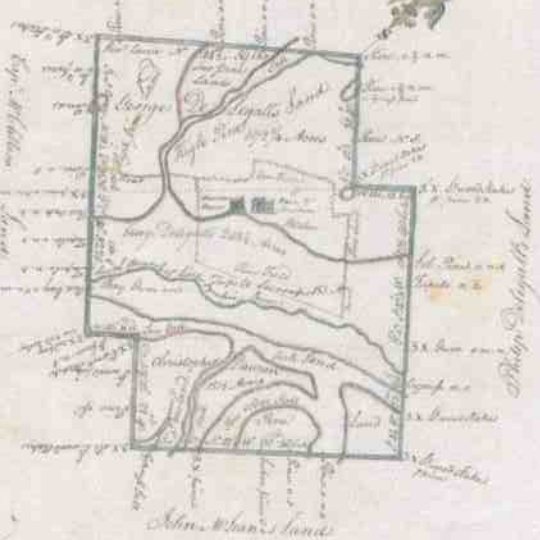
Bethel has such rich history. It's a shame everything seems to bypass us," she said. Only faith, she added, has kept alive the small band of residents.

"Faith knocks the Door," said cemetery association president Howard Mavromat, will be the theme song for today's commemorative service.

Staff Photos
By
Robert Seay



GENERATIONS OF GOULDS WERE BORN IN THIS MEAGER BETHEL HOME (RIGHT) NOW OCCUPIED BY MRS. FAWCETT (ON PORCH)
Much of Small Community's Activity Is Centered Around Bethel Church Pictured at Left



The above Plot, quantity and siting of Land in Christ Church Parish in the South District of this Colony, being the same which Samuel Douglass originally had and granted to the different Proprietors named in the Plan for 155, 200, and 400 Acres after the most accurate Survey and Measurement of said Plot to Customers 1733, 1734 and 1735, does in all 755 1/2 Acres, as that the original Plan 1733 does which I do hereby certify. This 25th of May 1735

Samuel Douglass

Samuel Douglass application for
restoration of confiscated
lands