

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE
DARRACOTT-WALLICE HOUSE
13560 COGBURN ROAD, MILTON, GEORGIA**

BY HAZEL GERBER

MAY 2023

HISTORY OF THE DARRACOTT-WALLICE HOUSE 13560 COGBURN ROAD, MILTON, GEORGIA

The Land

The land on which the house at 13560 Cogburn Road sits was once part of the Cherokee Nation, that vast tract of land which stretched within Georgia from the borders of Alabama and Tennessee to the city of Alpharetta. In 1831 the last of the Cherokee Nation was removed from the land in what is known as the Trail of Tears, and Cherokee County was created.

In 1832, the Georgia General Assembly acknowledged that so large a tract of land for one county was unwieldy and, therefore, split the area into ten smaller counties. The county where our house is located retained the name of Cherokee County.

In 1857, the Georgia General Assembly created the new county of Milton. Chartered on March 23, 1858, Milton County eventually gained land from Cherokee, DeKalb, Gwinnett, and Forsyth Counties.

The first known transfer of title is from James G. Bowan to Jesse Webb on July 28, 1880. This consisted of 120 acres which included the subject land. The price was \$700, indicating a per acre price of \$5.83/acre. (Milton County deed book I, pages 33 and 34)

Jesse and Sophrona Webb owned the property until December 24, 1907, when they sold 113 acres, including the subject, for \$2,100, or \$18.58/acre. (Milton County deed book J, page 87.) A further history of the transfer of title is included in the Addenda.

During the great depression of 1929, Milton County suffered economically to the point of bankruptcy and requested that Fulton County absorb it. Thus, Milton County became part of Fulton County in 1932.

The House

According to the Fulton County Tax Assessor, the house was constructed circa 1900. The exact year is unknown. Historical information was lost when Milton County was incorporated into Fulton County.

In August 1936 M. F. Brown purchased the property from Joda H. Haney for \$1,000. In January 1937, M. F. Brown borrowed \$1,250 from Frank Hall using the subject as collateral. The term of the loan was ten months at 8% interest.

In 1943, D. H. Strickland purchased the property from M. F. Brown for \$1,500. Two years later in 1945, D. H. Strickland sold it for \$2,200 and realized a gross profit of \$700, not a bad investment for the time!

Mr. Strickland sold the property to J. H. Darracott who, along with his wife, Ruby, renovated the then decrepit house, adding an additional room and bathroom. The Darracotts gave the house a second life by making it into a home where they raised their family. In 1995, the Darracott family sold the house and land to St. Aidan's Church of Alpharetta.

St. Aidan's Ownership

St Aidan's completely renovated the house a second time. (See the attached article describing the renovations and the members' efforts.) As the article describes, the renovations included a new roof, exterior siding, flooring, windows, insulation, and painting. A parishioner, Eric Evans, extensively renovated the kitchen and added a patio. Another parishioner, Curtis Mills, donated significantly towards the renovations. Mr. Mills made the contribution in memory of his good friend, John Wallice, who was killed in the 2001 bombing of the World Trade Center. Thus began the third life of this old house.

Immediately after purchase, the church used the house as offices. In subsequent years, the men's group gathered there for their weekly meetings. Especially important to the church was the use of the house by the youth group. The young people, mostly teenagers, considered the house to be their personal space. An old barn was located on the site. The church used it for a nativity scene one year prior to its demolition. A photograph of the young people on the barn's frame is included in the Addenda.

In time, the church built a sanctuary, new offices, a social hall, adult classrooms and a pre-school. The house became of less and less importance to the functioning of the church. However, many parishioners hold a special place in their hearts for the house even to this day. And, of course, it remains a memorial to John Wallice in remembrance of "September Eleven."

The Future

So, we come to the present with an eye to the future. Plans are under way by Curtis Mills to relocate and remodel the house. Its new location will be at the intersection of Birmingham Hwy. and Birmingham Road in Milton on the same site as the 7 Acres restaurant. Its intended use is as a breakfast/lunch restaurant. And so will begin the fourth life for this old house. Quite a history for what started out as such a humble structure!

Addenda

Acknowledgments

Photos

- House and Darracott Family
- City of Milton Historic Survey
- House as of May 2023 (2)
- Old Barn (2)

Article at renovation – *Church Unites for Renovation*

John Wallice Plaque

Cherokee Indian territory Map, Alpharetta Historical Society

History of Ownership – Transfer of Title (Deed Search)

Tax card with plat map

Acknowledgments

Special gratitude goes to:

- Ray Darracott
- Rebecca Darracott Byrd
- Stephanie Andersson and Sarah Delany, Alpharetta Historical Society
- Kathy Beck, Milton Historical Society

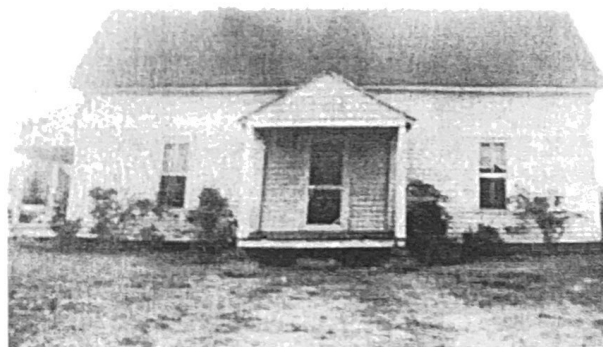
Others who were helpful:

- Betsy Jones
- Curtis Mills
- Barry and Suzanne Mansell
- Employees at the deed rooms of Fulton County and Cherokee County
- Ed Malowney, Alpharetta Historical Society

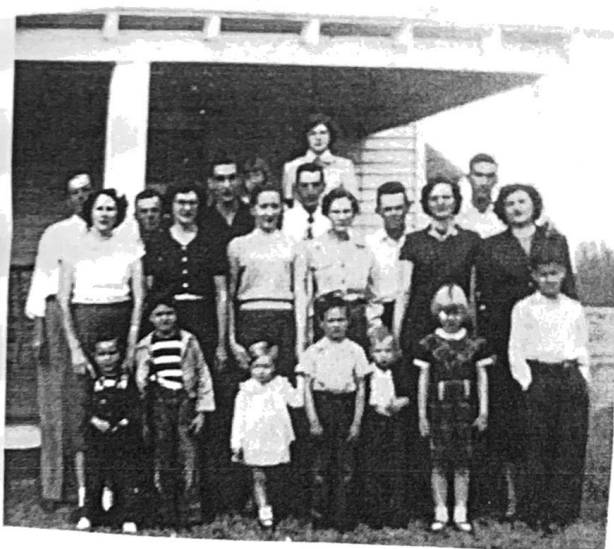
Barns of Old Milton, Bob Myers



13560 Cogburn Road – c 1995



13560 Cogburn Road – c 1952

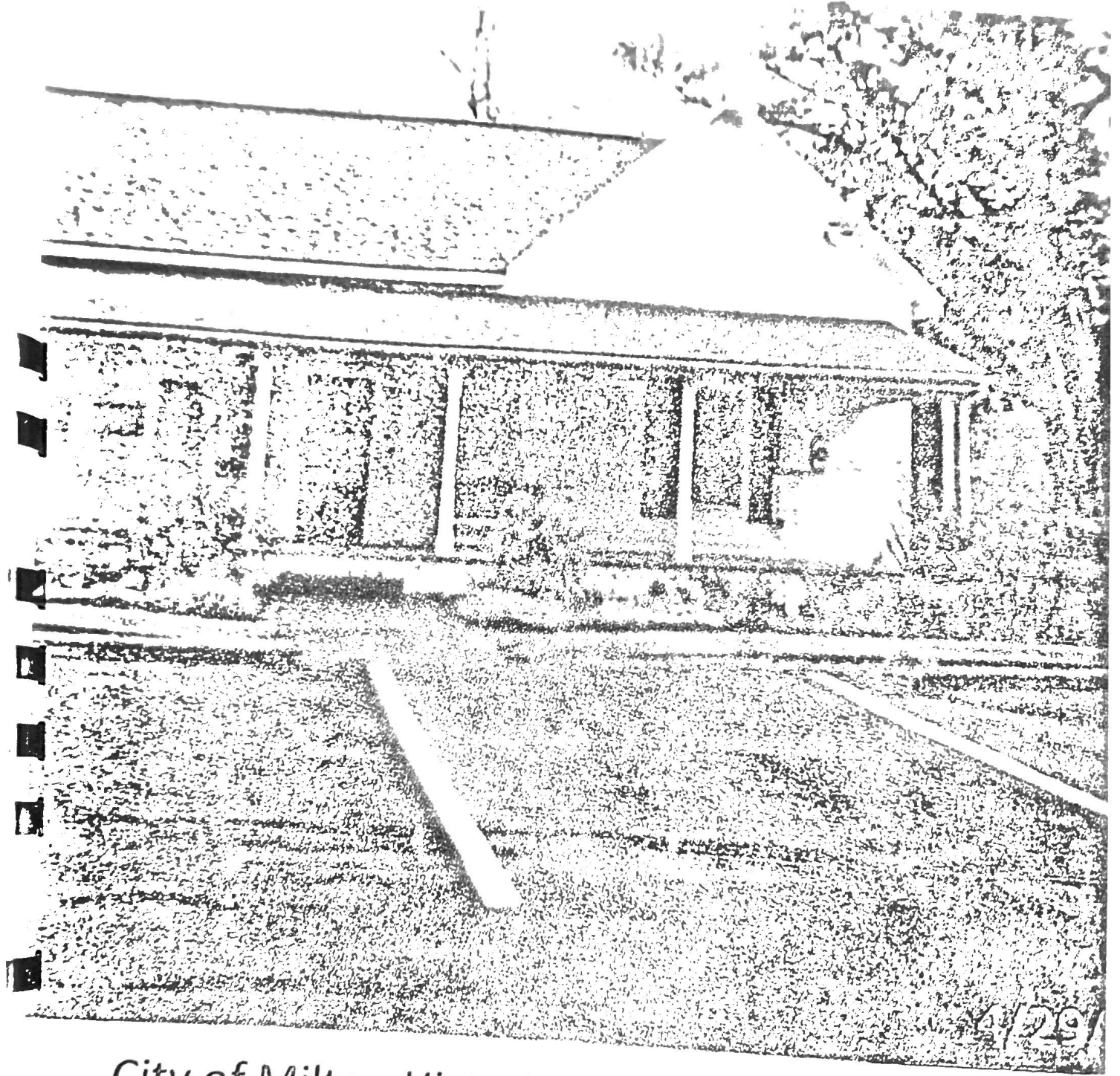


Darracott Family – c 1952
In Front of 13560 Cogburn Road



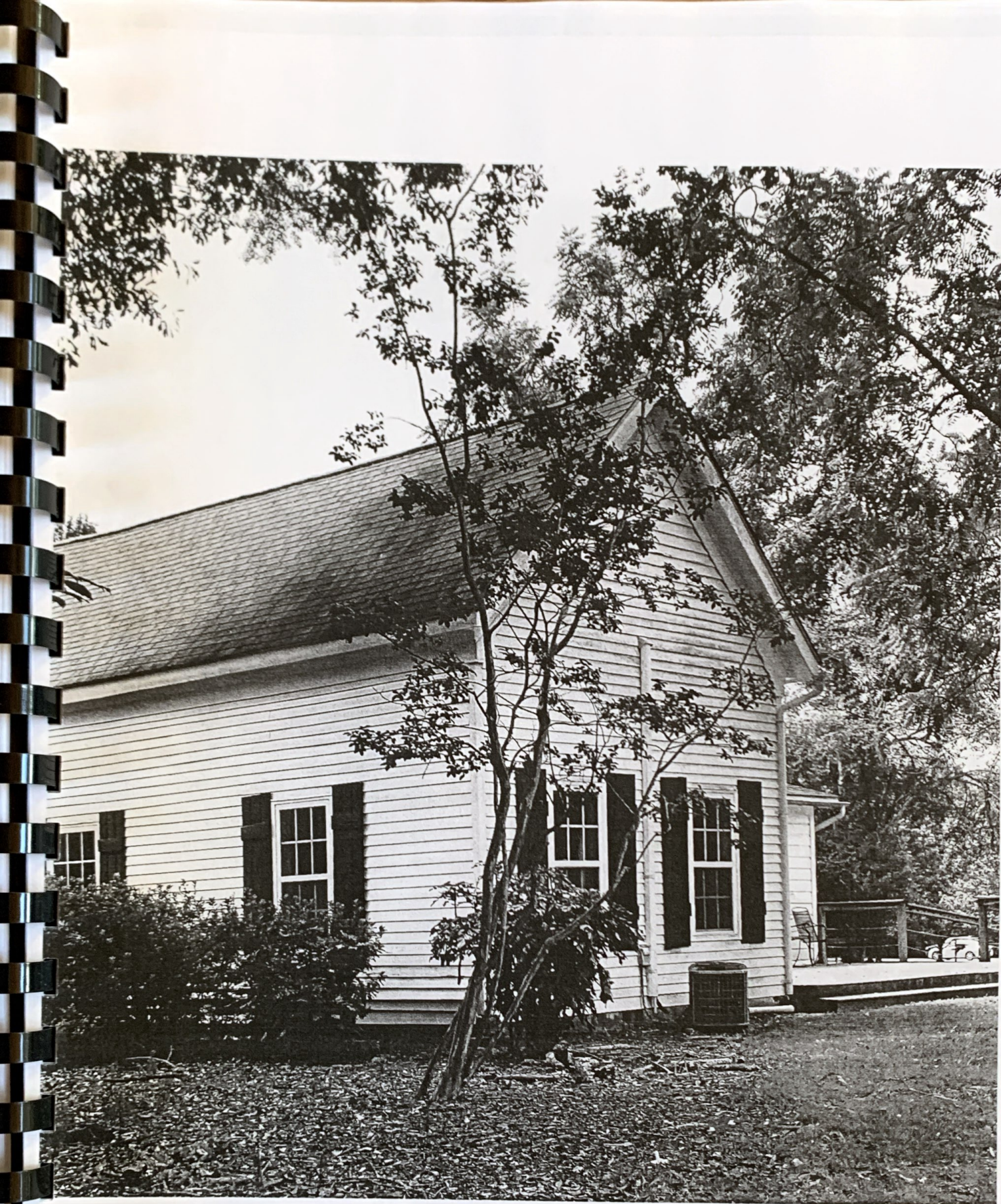
James Howard and Ruby Elvie Darracott
Prior to 1945

13560 Cogburn Road





Front of 13560 Cogburn Road – May 2023



Rear of 13560 Cogburn Road – May 2023

Live Nativity

11/17/95



Old Barn at 13560 Cogburn Road



St. Aidan's Youth at Demolition Of Old Barn

Church unites for renovation

Youth house dates back to 1890s

By JASON WRIGHT
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MILTON — Neighbors on
Cogburn Road have no doubt

noticed the many renovations
taking place at the old cottage
that sits in front of St. Aidan's
Episcopal Church.

The cottage, which church
organizers believe dates back

to the late 1890s, is built of
the rough hewn oak that pop-
ulates the roughly 19-acre site
the church sits on today.

Used as a Rectory office and
youth meeting space since the
church bought the property in
1993, the decision to renovate
the cottage was tossed around
for years.

"We toyed around with it
for a long time," said church
member Betsy Jones. "We'd
ask, 'Could we afford to reno-
vate this?'"

See CHURCH, Page 24



JASON WRIGHT, www.northhulton.com
Jaclyn Nix, left, and Alexis Biondi do their part to spruce up
the cottage in front of St. Aidan's Episcopal Church on Cogburn
Road.

Church: Dates to 1890's

Continued from Page 5

That answer came, said Rector Rob Wood, when a member of the parish quietly donated money to spruce it up in honor of a victim of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Wood said church organizers wanted to make the most of their money and time.

"We started asking, 'What can we do with the talents in the parish?' he said. 'We've had a really good group of

people."

So work began. First was a new roof, put on by a contractor for \$12,000. In early June church member Chuck Johnson and a group of retired parishioners began working on the exterior renovations – and the job got bigger by the day.

The bones of the house were in good shape, said Johnson, but the problem became one of knowing where to stop.

"At first it was a little paint here, a little putty there," he said. "But then we started coming up on some pretty serious deterioration."

So off came all the siding, both from the original 40-foot-by-40-foot domicile, plus the L-shaped expansion neighbors believe was put on after World War II.

Inside, the house was painted and got new floors. Workers also added insulation, put on new bundled cypress siding for a classic look, replaced all the doors and windows and, on Aug. 15, got together to slap on a fresh coat of exterior paint and gussy up



JASON WRIGHT/www.northfulton.com

St. Aidan's church member **Chuck Johnson** shows off the siding on the cottage the community renovated. Johnson worked countless hours on the project, leading members to deem it his 'labor of love.'

the grounds.

More than 50 members of St. Aidan's showed up for the day of work, contributing more than 1,000 man hours to the project. Now the church's youth groups will have a space all their own.

"We wanted this house to be up and running for a good ministry," he said. "For the teens, we want it to be

comfortable and feel like it's theirs."

As members buzzed around nailing, painting and spreading pine straw, the smile on Wood's face said it all.

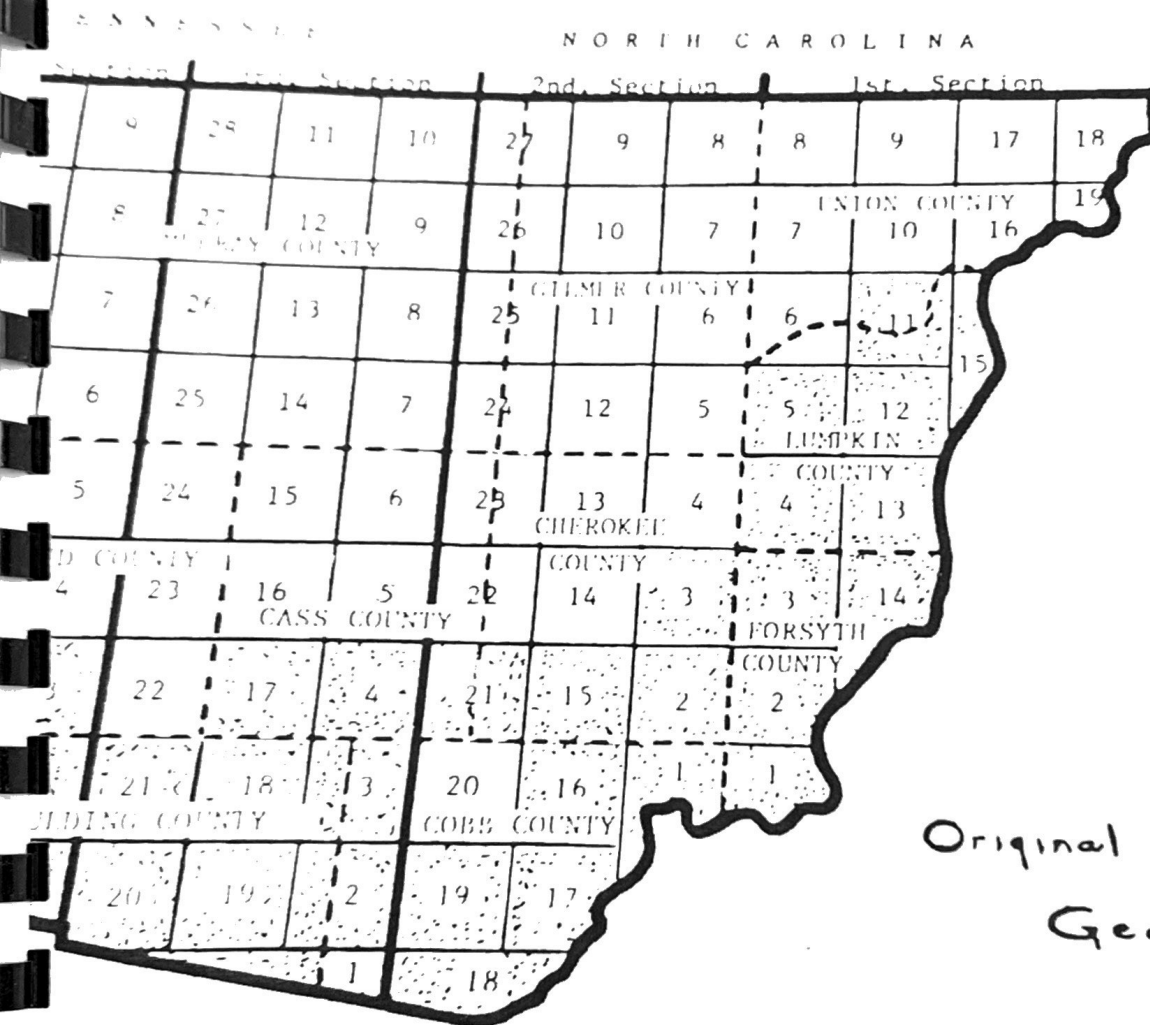
"It's great to come and see everyone working together as a church, everyone of all ages," he said. "We've gotten it done real quick because so many people have come out here."

THIS COTTAGE WAS RENOVATED
IN 2009 TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF

JOHN WALLICE

WHO DIED IN THE
WORLD TRADE CENTER ATTACKS
ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

*I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.
Whoever has faith in me shall have life,
even though he die. And everyone who has life,
and has committed himself to me in faith, shall
not die for ever.*



Original Cherokee County
Georgia 1832

Numbered squares showing dots are the gold
tracts and the numbered squares without the dots
are land districts. The ten counties shown
were created in 1832 at the time of the lottery.
Dashed lines show the boundaries of the ten

Transfer of Title (Deed Search)

James G. Bowan sold 120 acres, including the subject, to Jesse Webb on July 28, 1880 for \$700. (Milton County deed book I, pages 33 and 34.)

Jesse Webb and Sophrona Webb sold 113.5 acres, including the subject, to J. L. Anderson on December 24, 1907 for \$2,000. (Milton County deed book J, page 87.)

J. L. Anderson sold 52.75 acres, including the subject, to J. F. and T. O. Williams on November 22, 1911 for \$2,100. (Milton County deed book K, page 180.)

J. F. and T. O. Williams sold the 30 acres subject to Susie Harrell on December 11, 1915 for \$600. (Milton County deed book K, page 179.)

Susie Harrell, guardian of Susie Harrell sold the subject 30 acres to J. B. Williams on November 28, 1919 (Milton County deed book K, page 479.)

November 28, 1919 to August 5, 1936 - Not yet found. Research continues.

M. F. Brown granted to Joda H. Haney in consideration of \$10.00. As a further consideration the grantee herein agrees to maintain a home for the grantor for his lifetime in said property.

Joda H. Haney sold the property to M. F. Brown on August 5, 1936 for \$1,000. (Fulton County deed book 1480, page 566)

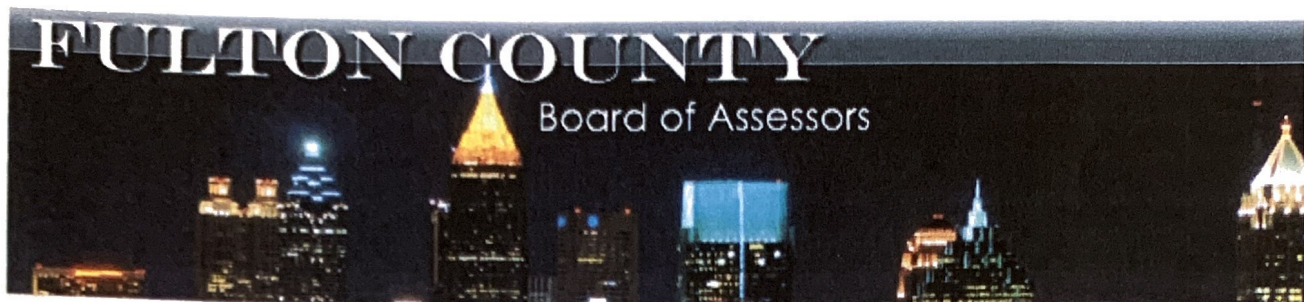
M. F. Brown sold the property to D. H. Strickland on January 16, 1943 for \$1,500. (Fulton County deed book 1938, page 182)

D. H. Strickland sold the property to J. H. Darrocott (sic) on August 15, 1945 for \$2,200. (Fulton County deed book 2056, page 363)

J. H. Darracott left the property to Ruby Elvie Darracott sometime before 1987.

Ruby Elvie Darracott, in turn, left it to Auburn Ray Darracott, Elise D. Jones, Willi Mace D. Williams, Howard Winston Darracott and George Egbert Darracott.

Auburn Ray Darracott, George Egbert Darracott, Howard Winston Darracott, Elise D. Jones and Willie Mace D. Williams sold the property, some 18.39 acres, to St. Aidan's Church of Alpharetta, Inc. in 1995.



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Owner and Parcel Information

Owner Name	SAINT AIDENS CH OF ALPHARETTA INC	Today's Date	January 10, 2016
Mailing Address	13560 COGBURN RD	Parcel Number	22 509009050505
	ALPHARETTA, GA 30004-2506	Tax District	56
Location Address	13560 COGBURN RD	Zoning	AG1
Legal Description	AG1	Acres	20.74
Property Class	E2-Exempt - Churches	Parcel Map	Show Parcel Map
Neighborhood	2200	Homestead	N
Legal Description			

Assessment Information

[Show Historical Assessments](#)

Year	LUC	CLASS	Land Value	Building Value	Total Value	Assessed Value
2015	620	E2	\$ 338,000	\$ 690,300	\$ 1,028,300	\$ 0

Land Information

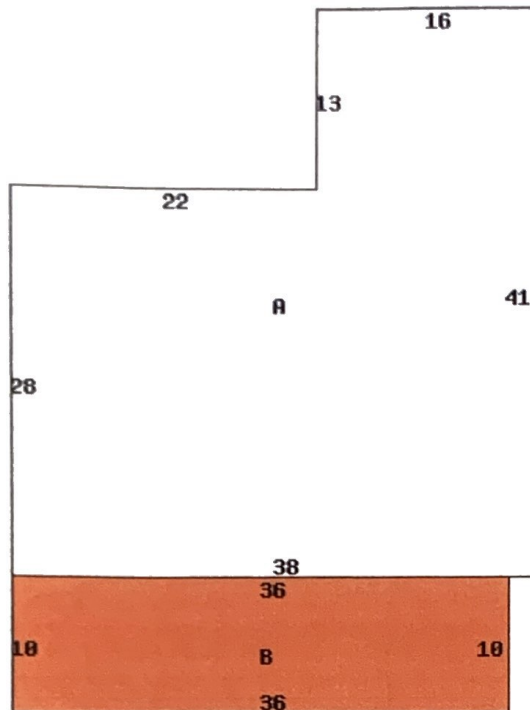
Land Type	Land Code	Description	Square Feet	Acreage	Price
A	1		43,560	1	\$ 38,920
A	0		859,874	19.74	\$ 299,040

Improvement Information

Card	Stories	Exterior Wall	Style	Year Built	Res Sq Ft	Basement	Total Bsmt Sqft	Finished Bsmt Sqft
1	1	FRAME	CONVENTIONAL	1900	1,272	CRAWL		
Garage Sqft	Garage Type	Total Rooms	Bedrooms	Full Bath/Half Bath	Attic	Additional Fixtures	Heating System	Heat
		5	2	1/0	NONE	2	NONE	NON CENTRAL
Total Fixtures	Masonry Fireplaces	Heating Fuel Type	Pre Fab Fireplace	Split Level/Foyer	Miscellaneous Feature	Miscellaneous Feature 2		
5	2	GAS						

Grade Factor: C- 0.92 Cost/Design Factor: 0% CDU: GD

Building Sketch [Enlarge Sketch](#)



Color	Area Type Description	Square Feet
A	MAIN AREA	1272
B	OFF OPEN FRAME PORCH	360

Accessory Information

Description	Year Built	Area	Grade	Value
No accessory information associated with this parcel.				

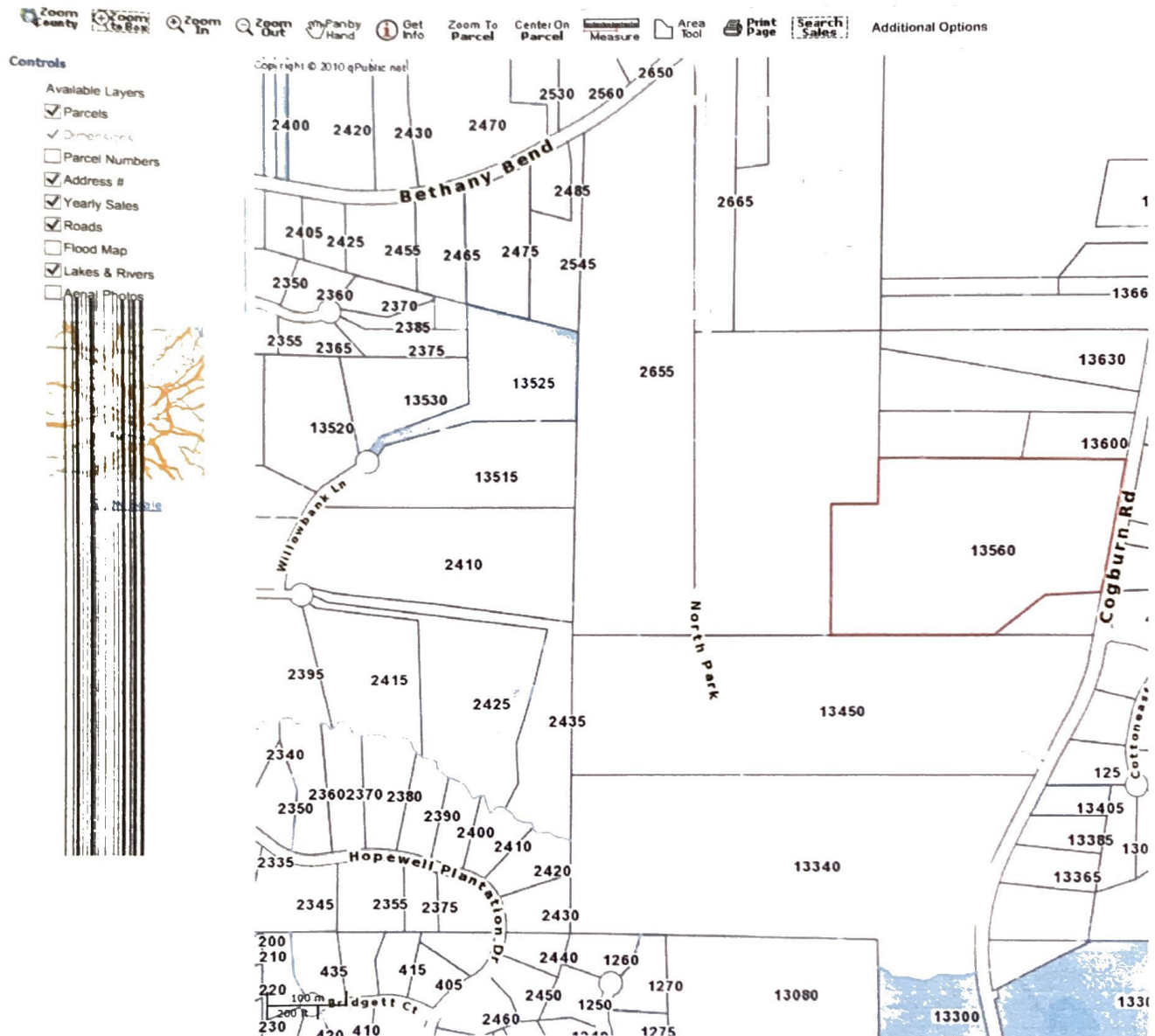
Sale Information

Sale Date	Sale Price	Instrument	Deed Book	Deed Page	Sale Qualification	Validity	Grantee	Grantor
1995-06-21	\$ 342,054		19702	41	Unqualified	0-Valid Sale		

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