

Dorch Store
North side of Branch Road, east of Roe Street
Stockton
Lanier County
Georgia

HABS No. GA - 2337

HABS
GA
87-STOCK,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Southeast Region
Department of the Interior
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

DORCH STORE

HABS No. GA - 2337

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GA
87-Stock,
2-

Location: This commercial building is located on the north side of Branch Road, immediately east of Roe Street in Stockton, Lanier County, Georgia. There is no street address.

Significance: This is one of two historic stores remaining in Stockton and the only historic frame store in town. It is also the only store which faces the railroad tracks and not U.S. 84. It is significant as a representative example of small-scale commercial architecture.

Description: This front gable, frame store has a three-bay symmetrical facade with central double doors made of narrow beaded boards. The doors are flanked by tall, single pane windows. There are no windows or doors on the side elevations. In the rear is a single door and window. In the front gable apex, is a set of double doors constructed of diagonal boards. The building is clad with drop or novelty siding and is set on concrete blocks with a composition shingle roof. There is a shed roof shelter to the rear supported by concrete blocks on the north side. The side elevations of the addition have no walls. The interior of the building is one room with narrow beaded board walls and ceiling. There is also a one-room shed to the east side of the building. It is clad with drop siding and set on concrete blocks with a front gable roof. There is a set of off-center double doors on the main façade.

History: This building was probably constructed around 1900. Judging from its unaltered interior, it probably served as store for most of its existence. It is currently being used for storage. Stockton is located in Lanier County, Georgia which was carved from parts of Lowndes, Berrien, and Clinch Counties in 1919. This small, rural community was entirely within Clinch County prior to this. Although the Savannah, Albany & Gulf Railroad opened in this area in 1860, Johnson's 1862 Map of Georgia and Alabama and Butts' 1871 map of Georgia show no town at this site. Gray's New Map of Georgia published in 1877, however, does include Stockton along the railroad line dating the town's formation to sometime between 1871 and 1877. Nearly all of the remaining historic buildings in the town date from the early to mid-twentieth century and face U.S. Highway 84 and not the railroad suggesting that the automobile was a fundamental source of development for this community. The highway was probably cut through the area in the early twentieth century and more or less parallels the railroad across the state. The road is not evident on late nineteenth century maps, but is clearly visible on highway maps by 1918. The 1923 Auto Trails Map of Georgia lists it as state road 38 and approximates Stockton's population to be 172.

Sources:

Butts, A.G.

Butts County Map of the State of Georgia. Macon, 1971

Cram, George T.

Cram's Road and County Map of Georgia. 1879.

Daughters of the American Revolution

History of Lowndes County, Georgia, 1825-1941. Macon, 1942.

Gibson, Jim

Old Times There are Not Forgotten: A Story in Picture and Words of the People of Lanier County, no date.

Goodrich Co.

Goodrich Road Map of Georgia and Alabama. 1918.

Gray, Frank A.

Gray's New Map of Georgia, 1877.

Rand McNally & Co.

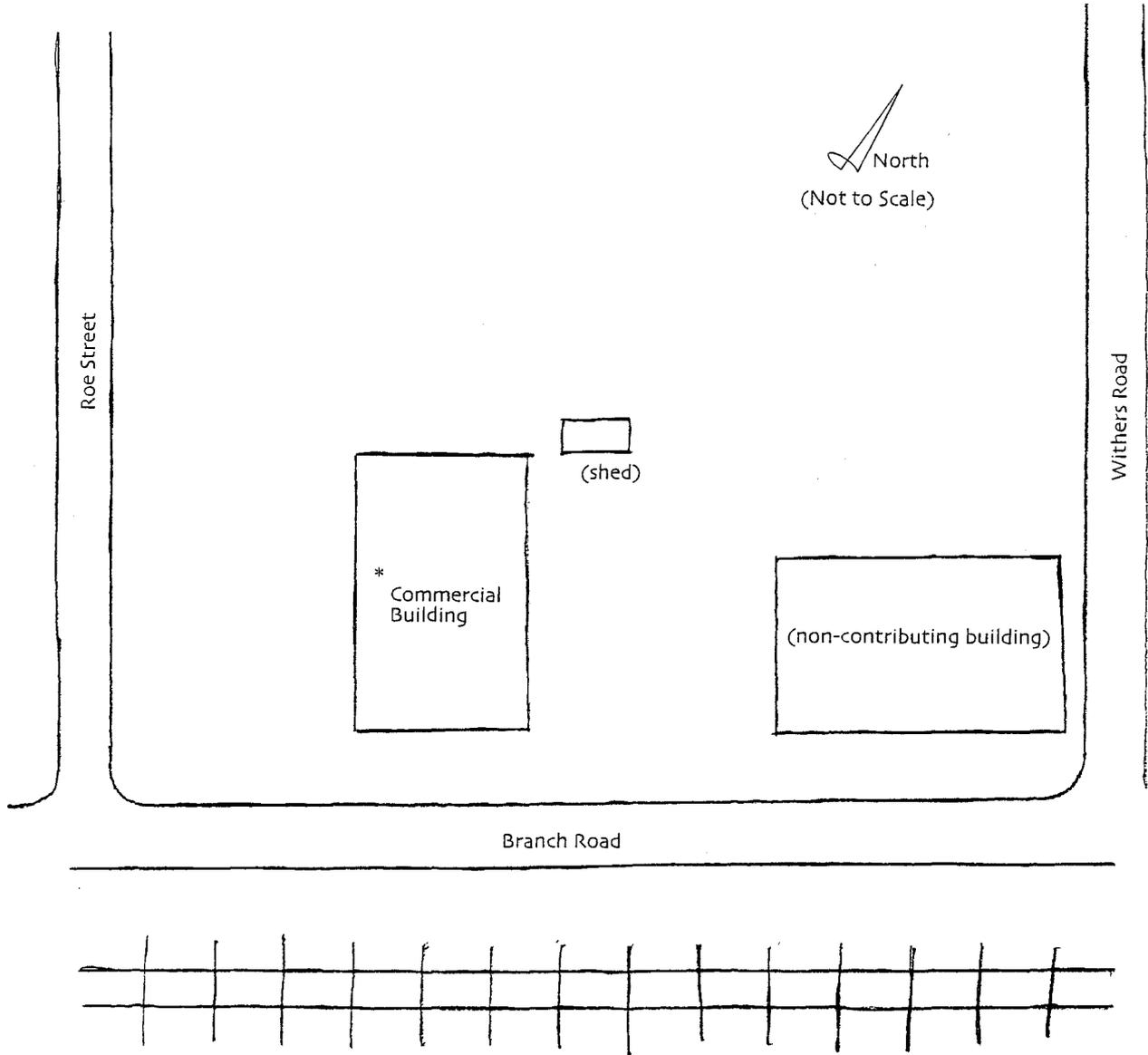
Auto Trails Map of Georgia. Chicago, 1923.

Historian:

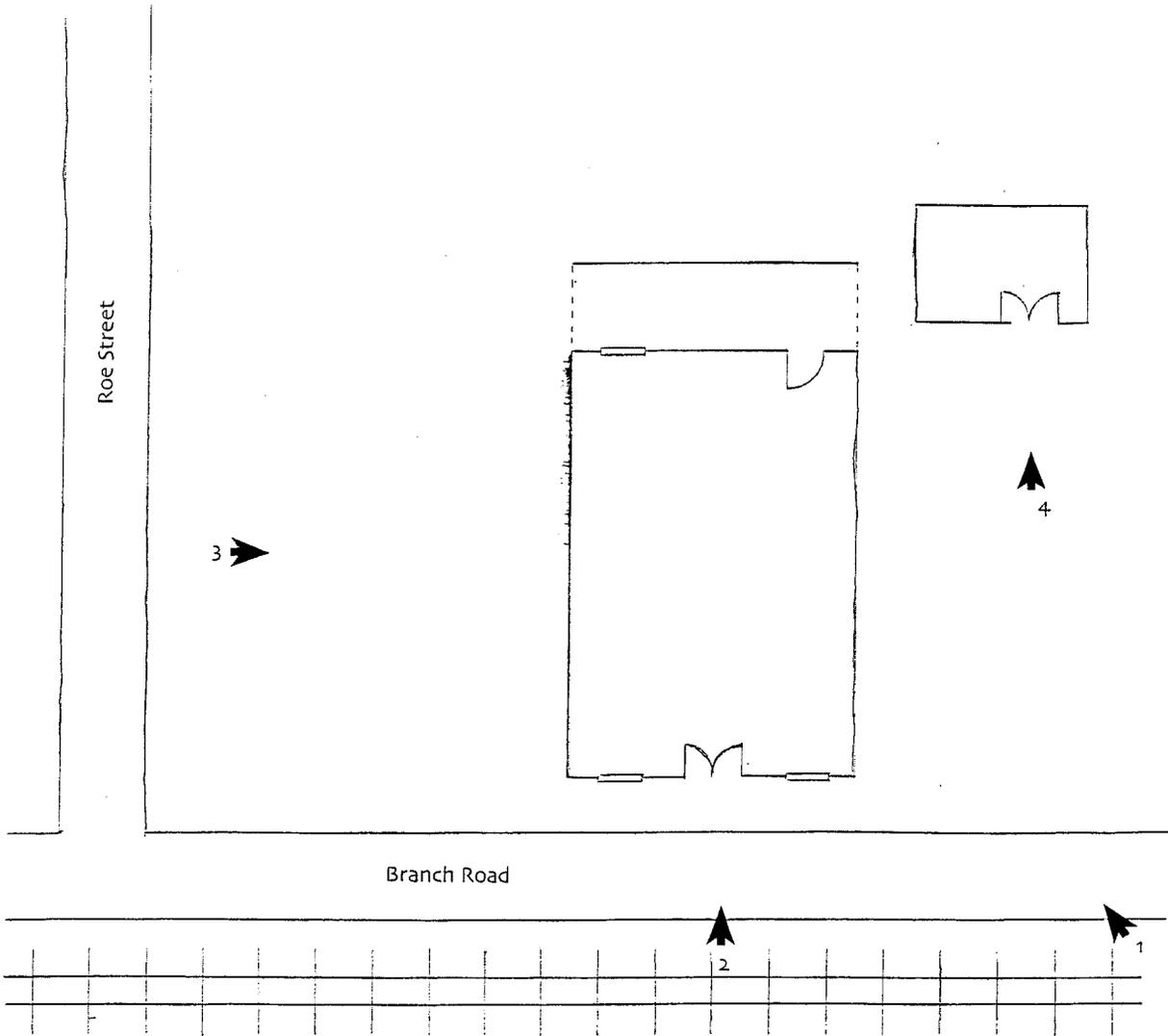
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North
(Not to Scale)