

RICHMOND HILL PLANTATION, Sterling Creek Lettuce Shed
East of Richmond Hill on Ford Neck Road
Richmond Hill Vicinity
Bryan County
Georgia

HABS No. GA-2348-B

HABS
GA-2348-B

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

RICHMOND HILL PLANTATION, Sterling Creek Lettuce Shed

HABS No. GA-2348-B

Location: East of Richmond Hill on Ford Neck Road, Richmond Hill vicinity, Bryan County, Georgia.

Significance: The Sterling Creek Lettuce Shed was used to pack and ice lettuce grown in the adjacent Sterling Marsh. Iceberg lettuce was the most successful of Henry Ford's experimental crops.

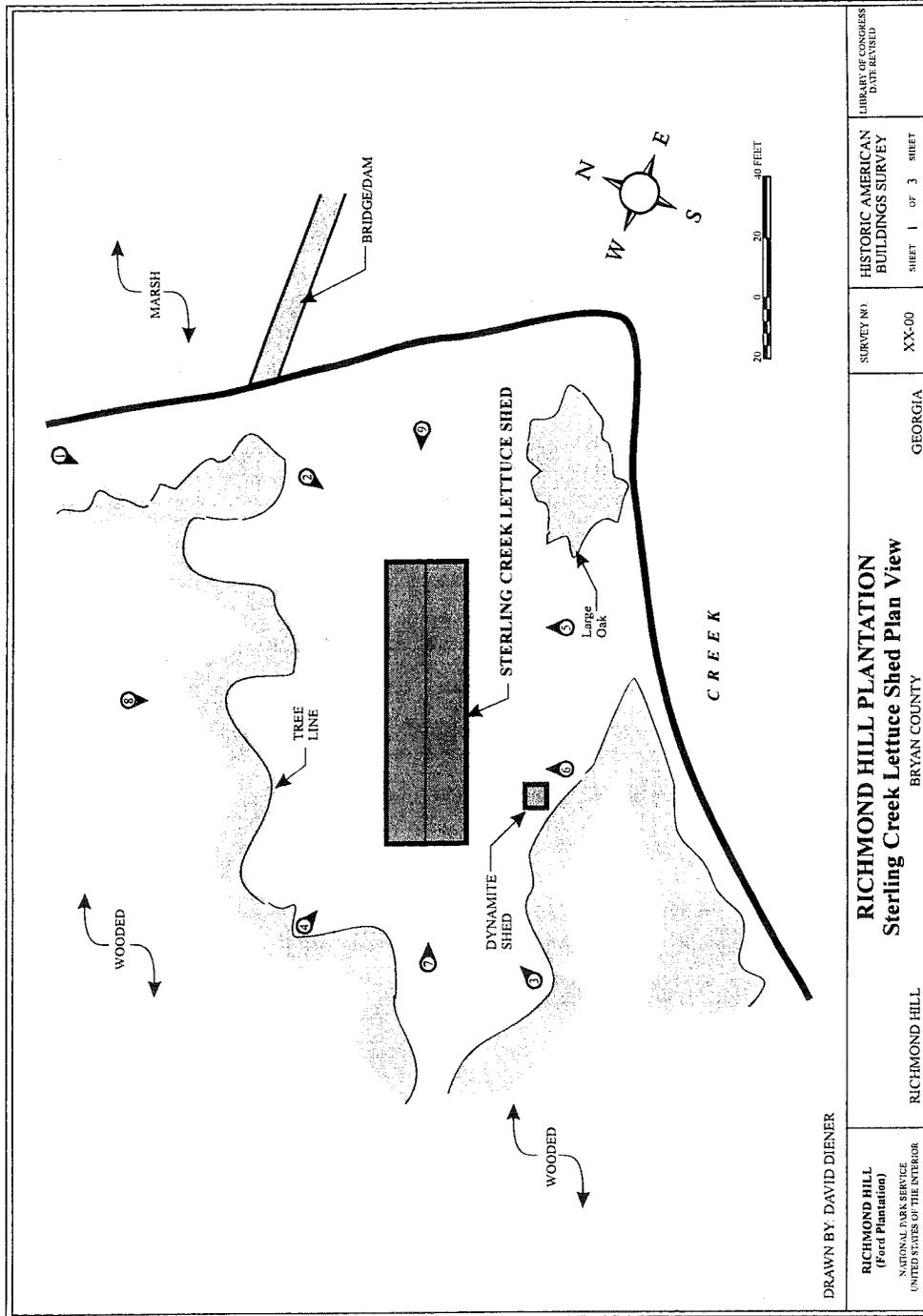
Description: This long building measures 120' x 28'. Its construction is almost identical to the Cherry Hill Lettuce Shed. The two-story building has heavy post and beam frame construction set on concrete footings; the enclosed room on the north end has a poured concrete foundation. The shed has a board and batten exterior with shuttered single sash windows. The first story level at the shed's south end is left open with a dirt floor for open-air storage and vehicle parking.

History: Henry Ford sponsored world-wide research efforts for the use of agricultural products. In addition to being Henry Ford's personal retreat, the Richmond Hill estate was utilized in the same manner as a university experimental farm. At the Richmond Hill laboratory, directed by Harry G. Ukkelberg, considerable effort went into finding economically viable crops for former rice fields. All along the Savannah and Ogeechee Rivers, millions of acres of these abandoned tidal rice fields had reverted to marshland. Numerous vegetable crops were moderately successful, but Iceberg lettuce grown in the old rice lands was found to have "a particularly better flavor" than the same variety from uplands. It became the most profitable of all the experimental crops. Two lettuce packing sheds were constructed around 1940 to efficiently process the harvest and get it to market. Lettuce was produced and packed in this shed for approximately ten years, from about 1940 to 1950. After that time, it was used as a barn for general purpose storage.

Sources: Long, Franklin Leslie and Lucy Bunce Long
1998 *The Henry Ford Era at Richmond Hill, Georgia*. Darien Printing & Graphics. Darien, Georgia.

Historian: Scott Butler and David Diener, Brockington and Associates, Atlanta
6611 Bay Circle, Suite 220, Norcross, Georgia 30071 August 2001

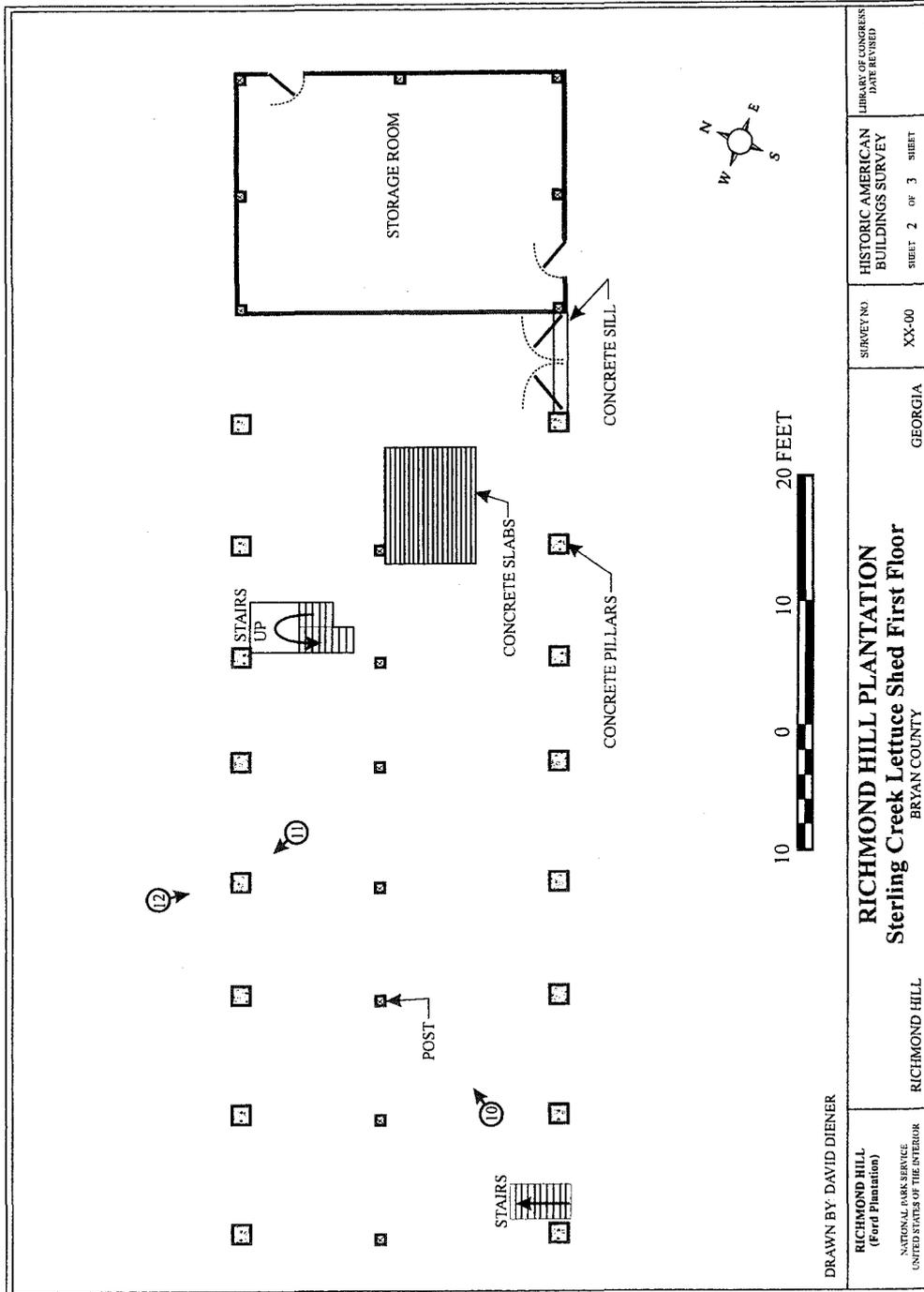
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RICHMOND HILL (Ford Plantation) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE UNITED STATES OF THE INTERIOR	RICHMOND HILL BRYAN COUNTY GEORGIA	SURVEY NO. XX-00	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY SHEET 1 OF 3 SHEET	LIBRARY OF CONGRESS DATE REPRODUCED
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RICHMOND HILL
 (Ford Plantation)
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 UNITED STATES OF THE INTERIOR

RICHMOND HILL PLANTATION
 Sterling Creek Lettuce Shed First Floor

BRYAN COUNTY

RICHMOND HILL

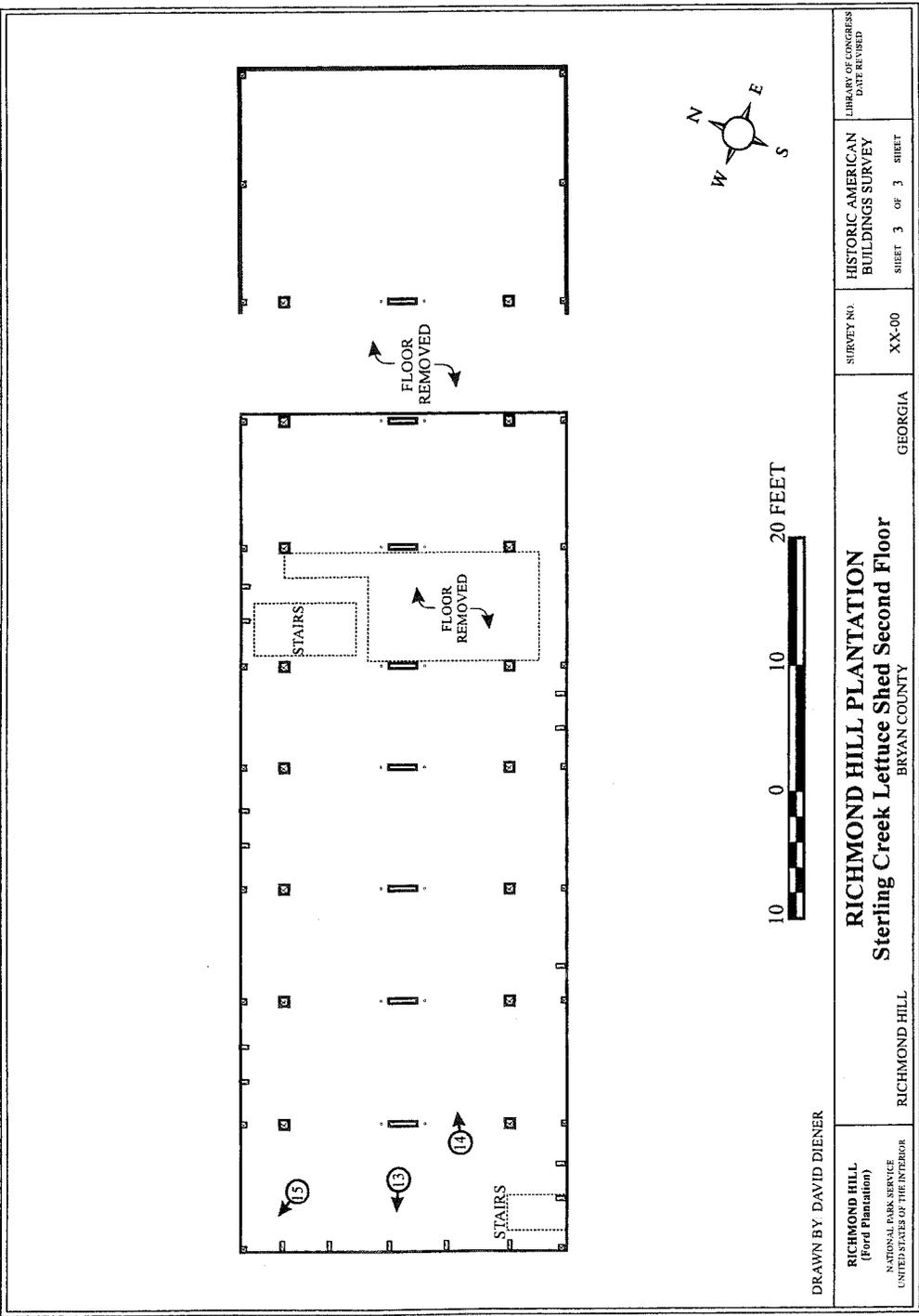
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HISTORIC AMERICAN
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RICHMOND HILL (Ford Plantation) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	RICHMOND HILL	RICHMOND HILL PLANTATION Sterling Creek Lettuce Shed Second Floor BRYAN COUNTY GEORGIA	SURVEY NO. XX-00	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY SHEET 3 OF 3 SHEET	LIBRARY OF CONGRESS DATE REPRODUCED
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