

FANNIN-TRUITT-HANDLEY HOUSE, WOODSHED
2301 Whitesville Road
LaGrange
Troup County
Georgia

HABS No. GA-2364-A

HABS
GA-2364-A

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

FANNIN-TRUITT-HANDLEY HOUSE, WOODSHED

HABS No. GA-2364-A

LOCATION: 2301 Whitesville Road (S.R. 219), on the southwest corner of Whitesville Road and Orchard Hill Road

USGS Cannonville Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates
N/3652014 E/684016

SIGNIFICANCE: The woodshed and other manufacturing-related buildings on the Handley grounds point to the importance of the Handley Plantation in the local agricultural economy.

DESCRIPTION: The woodshed is a one and a half story wood frame structure with exterior walls made up of a series of geometrically-shaped arches. The arches are placed on brick piers. The metal roof is gabled and has an opening on either end for access to the storage area. The shed is composed of two bays capable of storage of wood and farm machinery. The cladding material is composed of wide planks and drop siding above the eave line.

HISTORY: The woodshed was built in 1922 by John M. Handley. The building was constructed for utilitarian purposes and remained in operation, primarily as a storage shed, until recently. The Handley Plantation lies on both sides of Whitesville Road. The woodshed is located on the southwest corner of Whitesville Road and Orchard Hill Road, facing the Handley residence. A store, moved to its present location, is situated behind (west) the woodshed.

The Fannin-Truitt-Handley House and property have a long history associated with farming. The present house, constructed c. 1835-1840, was probably built and owned by Colonel James W. Fannin in its original configuration. A slave cabin documented in a 1964 county study, which is no longer standing, may have dated from the Fannin family occupancy of these lands. When Alfred Handley purchased the land there was a row of these slave cabins on the property. Before the Civil War, c. 1850-1861,

the Nathan Truitt family lived on and farmed the lands between Whitesville Road (S.R. 219) and Hamilton Road. Both the Truitts and the Fannin families are buried in the Fannin family cemetery associated with the property. The Fannin property was bought in 1899 by Alfred Bowen Handley, originally from Randolph County.

The Handley Plantation was apparently a large operation encompassing over 800 acres of farm, forest, and pasture lands. Tenant houses, depicted on a 1951 plat map, date from the Handley ownership of the property and were built approximately 1910. Tenant farming was a common practice among large southern landowners in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

James M. Handley inherited the house and lands from his father Alfred B. Handley. In addition to remodeling the house, James Handley built a store which functioned as a cotton warehouse and gin, operated a dairy, a grist mill, cut and sold stove wood from his forested land, and tenanted out much of his farm land with the help of an overseer. After his death in 1924 at 36 years, his widow continued the farming operations as well as the dairy and the store.

SOURCES: William H. Davidson, Pine Log and Greek Revival: Houses and People of Three Counties in Georgia and Alabama (Alexander City, AL: Outlook Publishing Company, 1964).

Interviews : Claude Handley, 3-13-89, in Atlanta, by Hal Cole, Sarah Handley, 1-2-90, in Atlanta, by Maureen Carroll, and Claude Handley, 1-3-90, in LaGrange, by Maureen Carroll.

HISTORIAN: Maureen Carroll
Transportation Planner I
Georgia Department of Transportation
3993 Aviation Circle
Atlanta, Georgia 30336

DATE: December, 1990