Greene County

The slides and photographs in this personal collection were made during a survey in 1976-1977 for the Historic Preservation Section (now the Historic Preservation Division) of the Department of Natural Resources. Federally funded, the surveys were made throughout Georgia in order to identify structures eligible for the National Register of Historic Places that would be impacted by federally funded or regulated programs, such as highways and power lines. The surveyor gave each structure (house, barn, church, bridge, etc.) a number, marked it on a county map, and filled out a data sheet. The data sheet gave a description of the structure, its address or name of the road, and, if possible, the name of the owner, previous owners, and builder, if known. Slides, maps and data sheets were sent to HPS in Atlanta. I tried to drive every county road, as well as cover the towns and crossroads.

Greene County people were very kind in letting me photograph their property and many, mentioned in the summary, generously shared information. I was fortunate in having Mrs. Dan Traver as a frequent guide.

Burke Walker at the Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center in Athens arranged for Xeroxes of the data sheets, which are stored at its office (no copies of slides.) The Owens Library at the University of Georgia has my work maps and the slides and photographs of my own collection, which I took with my camera or with extra film I bought for the Brownie camera furnished by the state. The collection also includes slides and photos taken before or after the survey. This collection is not a complete duplicate of the work done for the state; it focuses on the earliest remnants of the county's history and traditional or vernacular building—its log buildings, old framed houses, churches, mill sites. I also went with archeologists who were recording the ruins of the textile mill on the Oconee river, and made slides of these old brick structures, abandoned since the 1920s but a part of Greene County history. They are now underwater in Lake Oconee.

Through the Owens Library these slides, photographs and supporting data are made available to Greene County. We hope that this record of the county's settlement and history as reflected on the landscape, although incomplete, will be of value now and in the future.

Patricia Irvin Cooper
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