

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

DUDLEY FARM

1. NAME AND LOCATION OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Dudley Farm

Other Name/Site Number: Dudley Farm Historic State Park

Street and Number (if applicable): 18730 West Newberry Road

City/Town: Newberry

County: Alachua

State: FL

2. SIGNIFICANCE DATA

NHL Criteria: 1, 5

NHL Criteria Exceptions: n/a

NHL Theme(s): V. Developing the American Economy

- 1. extraction and production
- 6. exchange and trade
- 7. governmental policies and practices

Period(s) of Significance: 1881-1945

Significant Person(s) (only Criterion 2): n/a

Cultural Affiliation (only Criterion 6): n/a

Designer/Creator/Architect/Builder: Ben and Fannie Dudley

Historic Contexts: XI. Agriculture

- D. The Plantation Breaks up, Sharecropping, and Tenant Farming, 1860-
- E. Mechanical Agriculture as Business Enterprise Beyond Self-Sufficiency, 1820-
- F. Farming on the East Coast for Local Markets (Dairying, Fruits, and

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement. We are collecting this information under the authority of the Historic Sites Act of 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461-467) and 36 CFR part 65. Your response is required to obtain or retain a benefit. We will use the information you provide to evaluate properties nominated as National Historic Landmarks. We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. OMB has approved this collection of information and assigned Control No. 1024-0276.

Estimated Burden Statement. Public reporting burden is 2 hours for an initial inquiry letter and 344 hours for NPS Form 10-934 (per response), including the time it takes to read, gather and maintain data, review instructions and complete the letter/form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate, or any aspects of this form, to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Mail Stop 242, Reston, VA 20192. Please do not send your form to this address.

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Vegetables)
XXX. American Ways of Life
B. Farming Communities

3. WITHHOLDING SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Does this nomination contain sensitive information that should be withheld under Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act?

Yes

x No

4. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

1. Acreage of Property: 240

2. Use either Latitude/Longitude Coordinates or the UTM system:

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (enter coordinates to 6 decimal places):
Datum if other than WGS84:

Table with 2 columns: Latitude and Longitude. Rows A-F with coordinate values.

OR

UTM References:

Zone Easting

Northing

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3. Verbal Boundary Description:

In Section 31, Township 9, Range 18, the National Historic Landmark boundary includes Alachua County Parcels 04262-000-000, 04263-000-000, and 04263-001-000, which constitute the north half of the southeast quarter and the south half of the northeast quarter of the section. In Section 32, Township 9, Range 18, the boundary encompasses the portions of parcels 04272-000-000 and 04273-000-000 that are north of the line separating the southwest quarter and the northwest quarter of the section. South of this line, the boundary encompasses the portions of 04273-000-000 and 04267-000-000 that contain the road leading from Florida Route 26 to the farm complex.

4. Boundary Justification:

The National Historic Landmark (NHL) boundary encompasses most of the land that the Dudley family continuously owned and operated as a farm during the period of significance (1881-1945). All of the land within the NHL boundary lies within Dudley Farm Historic State Park. One hundred twenty acres of land to the north of the park were historically part of the Dudley property, but Myrtle Dudley sold this land out of the family in the 1970s (Figure 13). Because this land was historically associated with the Dudley Farm and retains integrity to its use as a woodlot during the period of significance, its inclusion within the NHL boundary may be considered in the future, if supported by property owners.

The Old Jonesville Road (#3 on the maps and in the inventory), which leads south from the farm complex to Florida Route 26 (West Newberry Road), is included within the NHL boundary because its presence influenced the location and operation of Dudley Farm during the period of significance, and the road functioned as the driveway to the farm after circa 1915. The eastern boundary of the area surrounding the Old Jonesville Road follows the route of a county road that appears on maps from the late twentieth century.

The Dudley family never owned the park land that lies to the south of the NHL boundary and to the west of the Old Jonesville Road during the period of significance. The park land to the east of the Old Jonesville Road is excluded because the available land and tax records indicate that the Dudleys did not own this land continuously during the period of significance. Moreover, the presence of a non-historic dwelling on this land diminishes its integrity to the period of significance.

The Dudleys also owned the land to the east of the main farm for brief periods of time during the period of significance. This land, which is privately owned, is excluded from the NHL boundary because the Dudleys did not own it continuously and because most of this land does not retain integrity to the period of significance due to subdivision and construction after 1945. Ben and Fannie Dudley and their descendants did not own the land to the west of the NHL boundary during the period of significance.

5. SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT AND DISCUSSION

INTRODUCTION: SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The land that makes up Dudley Farm has been used primarily for agricultural purposes since at least the 1850s, when Philip Benjamin Harvey Dudley and his wife, Mary, acquired the property. Over a period of more than

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one hundred years, three generations of Dudleys cultivated timber, raised livestock, grew subsistence and cash crops, and maintained small fruit orchards on the land. In the 1970s, the two remaining second-generation Dudleys, Myrtle and Frank Dudley, and their nephew, George McLarty, scaled back the farming operations to just a small herd of cattle, a vegetable garden, and a flower garden.¹

Established in 1881, Dudley Farm in Alachua County, Florida, is significant under NHL Criteria 1 and 5 for its exceptional ability to illustrate the history of owner-operated farms in the South in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The period of significance begins in 1881, when Ben and Fannie Dudley settled on the 280-acre farm that Ben acquired from his father. The period of significance ends in 1945, after which agriculture on Dudley Farm began to diverge from earlier, well-established patterns in Southern agriculture.

The farm's exceptionally well-preserved collection of buildings and outbuildings convey the living conditions, labor, and agricultural practices on owner-operated farms in the southeastern United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Throughout the period of significance, farmers like the Dudleys placed a high value on self-sufficiency and endeavored to produce much of their own food. The Dudley women's labor was pivotal to the success of domestic production. The buildings and landscape features associated with growing, preserving, and storing food for home consumption illustrate farm women's work and production practices. The collection of buildings also illustrates the expansion, over time, of commercial farming on the Dudley Farm and the effects of advances in agricultural practices and technology. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the Dudleys and other owner-operators prized self-sufficiency even as they became increasingly enmeshed in commercial agriculture. From 1882 until the early 1930s, the Dudleys combined subsistence farming with production of cotton, the dominant cash crop in the South. During the agricultural depression of the 1920s, the Dudleys diversified their commercial farming in response to the cotton boll weevil and low cotton prices. By the mid-1930s, they had eliminated cotton in favor of truck crops, peanuts, tobacco, cattle, and poultry.

With a surviving tobacco barn and several chicken houses, the farm is strongly associated with the spread of tobacco culture into the southern coastal plains in the early 1900s and with women's participation in commercial poultry-raising in the 1930s. As prosperous white owner-operators, the Dudleys benefited from government programs to promote crop diversification and modern farming practices, including the effort to eradicate Texas cattle fever by dipping cattle in vats such as the one at Dudley Farm to rid the cattle of disease-carrying ticks. The Dudleys also began purchasing mechanized farm equipment in the 1920s and 1930s, placing them in the vanguard of a broader trend towards mechanization on Southern farms. This trend would transform Southern agriculture into a more commercial enterprise and threaten the viability of small family farms in the decades after World War II. The Dudley Farm embodies this transformation.

In 1983, Myrtle Dudley donated a portion of the Dudley land to the Florida Park Service, but continued to live on the property until her death in 1996.² Between 1983 and 1986, the Florida Park Service acquired the remainder of the Dudley land and began to develop the property into a historical park. Portions of the property were logged in the late 1990s and early 2000s; these areas have since re-forested.³ (See Figure 4.) Since Dudley Farm Historic State Park opened in 2001, the land has been used for historical interpretation, recreation, and agriculture. With the assistance of volunteers, Florida Park Service staff cultivates crops that were grown by the Dudley family. Poultry and livestock on the farm include cattle, mules, turkeys, and chickens.

¹ Ben Pickard, *Dudley Farm: A History of Florida Farm Life* (Gainesville, FL: Alachua Press, Inc., 2003), p. 73. George McLarty is the son of Mary C. "Dollie" Dudley McLarty, Frank and Myrtle Dudley's oldest sibling.

² Pickard, pp. 74, 76.

³ Aerial photographs show some logging in the far northwest corner of the property 1995 and 1999, and more extensive logging between 1999 and 2004.

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PROVIDE RELEVANT PROPERTY-SPECIFIC HISTORY, HISTORICAL CONTEXT, AND THEMES. JUSTIFY CRITERIA, EXCEPTIONS, AND PERIODS OF SIGNIFICANCE LISTED IN SECTION 2.

History of Dudley Farm

War, disease, and migration associated with the arrival of Spanish settlers in the 1500s decimated the Timucuan people, who practiced agriculture along with hunting and gathering in the area where Dudley Farm is located. By the 1620s, Spanish settlers had set up a cattle ranch in the vicinity of present-day Gainesville. In the late 1700s and early 1800s, Creek Indians from present-day Georgia and Alabama migrated into northern and central Florida. The groups that settled in what is now Alachua County became known as the Alachua Seminoles. In addition to growing corn and other food crops, they also raised cattle.⁴

Dudley Homestead, 1855-1881

From 1855 until 1881, the land where Dudley Farm is located was part of a larger plantation owned by Philip Benjamin Harvey Dudley (1814-1881) and Mary Magdalena Thomson Dudley (1816-1880), Ben Dudley's parents. In the early 1850s, P. B. H. Dudley moved from South Carolina to Alachua County, Florida, where he traded cattle to earn the money to buy land. He also engaged in slave trading, uprooting enslaved people from South Carolina to sell to aspiring planters in Florida. Mary Dudley and their children, including their son Ben, joined P. B. H. Dudley in Alachua County in 1855, the same year he purchased a 160-acre homestead, which became part of the present-day Dudley Farm.⁵ By 1859, the homestead encompassed approximately 500 acres, and the Dudleys owned more than 400 acres of land in other parts of the county.⁶ In 1860, their plantations produced 5,600 pounds of Sea Island cotton, as well as corn, sugar cane, and sweet potatoes. The Dudleys also sold cattle that grazed on the open range.⁷

With over 950 acres of land and thirty-one slaves by 1863, P. B. H. and Mary Dudley were wealthier than the majority of farmers in Alachua County. They educated their children in private schools, and P. B. H. Dudley held offices in the local government. During the Civil War, he fought for the Confederacy as captain of the Alachua Rangers and continued to serve as an officer in the local militia after returning home in 1863 due to illness. Though prosperous and locally influential, the Dudleys lived in a two-room, log, dogtrot dwelling and

⁴ James W. Covington, *The Seminoles of Florida* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1993), pp. 3, 5, 11-13; John E. Worth, *The Timucuan Chiefdoms of Spanish Florida*, The Ripley P. Bullen Series (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1998), pp. 1, 17-18, 26-27, 199.

⁵ Ben Pickard, *Dudley Farm: A History of Florida Farm Life* (Gainesville, FL: Alachua Press, Inc., 2003), pp. 7-8; Sherry DuPree, Garlenda Greene Grant, and Patti Bartlett, *Historical Research of African Americans on the Dudley Farm* (Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service, n.d.), Appendix D; P.B. Harvey Dudley to J.J. Ryan, Receipt for Slave Sales, June 22, 1855, DUFA 6123, Dudley Farm Archives (DUFA). Pickard (p. 8) suggests the Dudleys initially lived on 640 acres near Fort Clarke, which Dudley purchased in 1854. He then sold this parcel in 1856 for more than twice what he paid for it, suggesting it was an investment rather than a homestead.

⁶ P.B.H. Dudley acquired the 1855 tracts by deed from Benjamin Jones. Dudley was also the original land grant recipient of the 1859 tracts. Even though Jones affirmed in the deed that he had clear title to the 1855 land, Jones's land patent for those tracts is dated 1859, perhaps not coincidentally the very same day that Dudley patented his 1859 tracts.

⁷ Alachua County Deed Book D, p. 218 (November 16, 1855); Land Patents, U.S. General Land Office at Newnansville, Florida, to Philip B.H. Dudley, Certificate Nos. 3873 (April 1, 1859), 3885 (April 1, 1859), and 4976 (August 1, 1860), Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records database, <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>, accessed June 23, 2016 and February 8, 2017; Pickard, p. 9.

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did not display the extravagant lifestyle typically associated with the planter elite.⁸

In 1865, the end of slavery in the United States brought profound changes to Alachua County and to the Dudley plantation. In 1860, a little more than half of Alachua County's 8,232 residents were enslaved. Ten years later, the total population had more than doubled, and African Americans made up 72% of the county's residents.⁹ After Emancipation, P. B. H. and Mary Dudley hired African Americans, including some who had worked as slaves on the Dudley Plantation, as wage workers. Cotton and cattle remained the Dudleys' primary sources of income, but P. B. H. Dudley also opened a store in the nearby town of Archer in partnership with his son-in-law, James W. Williams. As a storekeeper and owner of a cotton gin, Dudley extended credit to local farmers through mortgages and crop liens, in which he claimed rights to a farmer's crops until the debt was paid.¹⁰

As P. B. H. and Mary Dudley aged, they broke up their extensive landholdings into smaller farm units operated by tenants or their adult children.¹¹ After Mary's death in the summer of 1880, P. B. H. Dudley moved to Archer to live with his daughter and son-in-law. In August 1881, a little over a month before his death, he transferred 280 acres of the Dudley homestead to his only living son, Philip Benjamin Harvey "Ben" Dudley, Jr.¹² This acreage became what is now known as Dudley Farm, and comprises much of the nominated property. At the time, Ben Dudley (1852-1918) had been married for four years to Sarah Francis "Fannie" Wynne (1858-1937). Born in Georgia, Fannie was the daughter of a tanner and met Ben Dudley when her family lived in nearby Gainesville in the 1870s.¹³

The Dudley Family and Dudley Farm, 1881-1983

When Ben and Fannie Dudley moved to the 280-acre homestead in 1881, they initially lived in P. B. H. and Mary Dudley's dogtrot house, which is no longer standing (Figure 1). In 1882, around the time of the birth of their third child, Ben Dudley constructed a new, one-story, dogtrot dwelling for his growing family. This dwelling forms the core of the present house (#4) on the property.¹⁴ Fannie Dudley bore nine more children between 1885 and 1901, and her seven younger siblings came to live with them after her parents' deaths in 1882 and 1883. To further accommodate their large and growing family, the Dudleys enclosed the center passage of their dogtrot house and added an upper half-story.¹⁵ By 1910, the farm encompassed more than ten buildings and structures, including a detached kitchen and dining room (#9), a smokehouse (#10), a sugar cane complex

⁸ Pickard, pp. 8-13. In 1864, Dudley led the local militia in battles at Olustee, Gainesville, and Otter Creek in Florida.

⁹ United States and Francis Amasa Walker, eds., *The Statistics of the Population of the United States: Compiled from the Original Returns of the Ninth Census (June 1, 1870) under the Direction of the Secretary of the Interior, Volume 1* (Washington: Govt. Print. Off, 1872), p. 19.

¹⁰ Pickard, pp. 15-16; Alachua County Mortgage Book C, pp. 516, 518, 519, 520, 524, 525, 573, and 726 (1873-1874); Alachua County Mortgage Book D, p. 169 (1876).

¹¹ Alachua County Deed Book J, pp. 169, 384, 669 (1875 and 1877); Alachua County Deed Book I, p. 388 (1880); Alachua County Deed Book M, p. 45 (1880), and Alachua County Deed Book W, p. 507 (1875). Soon after Ben and Fannie Dudley married in 1877, P. B. H. and Mary Dudley gave them 240 acres located south of Archer. In his 1874 will, P. B. H. Dudley expressed his intention to bequeath much of the land associated with the Dudley homestead to his daughter, Virginia Jones, while Ben Dudley would retain the land south of Archer. However, in 1881, Ben Dudley transferred the land south of Archer to Virginia Jones, and P. B. H. Dudley transferred the Dudley homestead to Ben Dudley. Pickard, p. 21; Alachua County Deed Book J, p. 669 (1877) and Alachua County Deed Book M, p. 929 (1881).

¹² Pickard, p. 21; Alachua County Deed Book M, p. 742 (1881).

¹³ Fannie Dudley's parents, Samuel G. and Sarah Wynne, returned to Georgia before 1880. Population Census, 1870, Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida, p. 12; Population Census, 1880, Quitman, Brooks County, Georgia, p. 46; 1880 Population Census, District No. 11, Alachua County, Florida, p. 8; Pickard, pp. 25, 26-27.

¹⁴ Numbers in parentheses refer to the number that is used to identify individual resources in the inventory and on the site plans.

¹⁵ Pickard, pp. 24-27.

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(#24 and #25), a stable (#19), and a corn crib (#20). Fannie Dudley cultivated a flower garden in front of the house (Figures 6 and 7). Her youngest daughter, Myrtle Dudley, remembered that passers-by would write to compliment her mother on the garden, which had roses of all different colors and a small stone shed (#5) to protect potted flowers from freezing.¹⁶

On October 27, 1918, Ben Dudley died at home.¹⁷ After his death, Fannie Dudley ran the farm with the help of four of her unmarried children: Winifred (Winnie) Dudley (1890-1968), Ralph Dudley (1894-1967), Frank Dudley (1899-1980), and Myrtle Dudley (1901-1996). In 1924, Dora Dudley Pickett (1882-1969), Ben and Fannie Dudley's third child, returned home after her marriage ended. On January 28, 1937, Fannie Dudley died suddenly of a stroke while picking roses in her flower garden in front of the house. Ralph, Dora, Winnie, and Myrtle continued to run the farm after her death. Frank Dudley married in 1945 and left the farm.¹⁸

Between 1967 and 1969, Ralph Dudley, Dora Dudley Pickett, and Winnie Dudley died, leaving Myrtle Dudley to manage the farm. She scaled back farm production, reduced the livestock herds, and sold some land along the northern edge of the property. Her nephew, George McLarty, helped run the farm in the 1970s. As the 1970s drew to a close, several of the farm buildings were no longer in use and were falling into disrepair.¹⁹

From Farm to Park, 1983-2018

In 1983, Myrtle Dudley donated twenty-four acres of the property, including the farm complex, to the Florida Park Service with the intention of creating a park dedicated to interpreting farm life in Florida in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The donation, which took effect upon her death, also included farm equipment, tools, clothing, quilts, furniture, books, and documents. The objects and archival collections that accompanied the donation, combined with archeological investigations and interviews conducted with Myrtle Dudley by Florida Park Service staff in the late 1980s and early 1990s, provide an unusually rich body of research resources on farming operations and daily life on an owner-operated farm in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.²⁰

The Florida Park Service began repairing and restoring the farm buildings in the 1980s, while Myrtle Dudley still lived on the property. In 1986, the State of Florida purchased 232 additional acres of the original farm. Myrtle Dudley died on January 14, 1996 at the age of 94. The following year, the State of Florida purchased the land between Dudley Farm and State Route 26 for use as a visitor reception area for the park. Dudley Farm Historic State Park formally opened on July 6, 2001.²¹

Owner-Operated Farms in the Postbellum South²²

¹⁶ Myrtle Dudley, Dessie Prescott, and Ruby Dye, interview by Sally Morrison, January 30, 1989, Tape #1, transcript, p. 6; Myrtle Dudley and Gordon Garland, interview by Don Yonkers, August 25, 1983, Tape 4A, p. 11; Pickard, pp. 66-67. All interview transcripts are located in the Dudley Farm Archives (DUFA).

¹⁷ Pickard, pp. 39, 56, 62; Dudley, Garland, and McLarty, interview (1984), Tape 6A, p. 12. On the day that P. B. H.P. B. H. Dudley died, the family received a telegram notifying them that Norman, one of the two Dudley boys fighting overseas in World War I, was missing in action. A few days later, another telegram arrived, saying that Norman was alive but wounded and shell-shocked. After his release from the hospital, Norman spent some time at home recuperating, and eventually recovered and moved away from the farm.

¹⁸ Pickard, pp. 39-40, 56, 62-65, 66, 72; Dudley, Garland, and McLarty, interview, Tape 6A, p. 7.

¹⁹ Pickard, p. 73. Between 1971 and 1978, Myrtle Dudley sold the 120 acres of land to the north of the nominated area. See Alachua County Deed Book 743, p. 175 (May 5, 1971) and Deed Book 1130, p. 146 (April 11, 1978)

²⁰ Pickard, p. 74.

²¹ Ibid, pp. 76-77.

²² In this nomination, "the South" generally refers to the eleven states that made up the Confederate States of America (Figure

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Owner-operator farmers in the South had diverse experiences depending on their race, crop mix, and geophysical region. Yet all lived in a region whose society and economy were profoundly shaped by the legacies of slavery, plantation agriculture, and the Confederacy's defeat in the Civil War. Despite the rapid growth of towns and cities and the beginnings of industrial development, staple crop agriculture continued to dominate much of the South's economy through the early twentieth century. White farmers and planters throughout most of the former Confederacy struggled with the transition from enslaved to free labor, and all farmers grappled with the spread of commercial agriculture in ways that were unique to this region. Meanwhile, in a few areas, notably west Texas, the southern tip of Florida, and northwestern Virginia, geography and settlement patterns produced significantly different agricultural structures, practices, and paths of development. Except for these few areas, Dudley Farm is representative of broad patterns of agricultural development on owner-operated farms in the South during Reconstruction, and into the early twentieth century.²³

The establishment of Dudley Farm corresponds with a regional increase in the number and size of owner-operated farms in the two decades after the end of the Civil War. By 1885, white owner-operators like the Dudleys made up the majority of farmers in the South. In Alachua County, where Dudley Farm is located, the number of farms quintupled between 1860 and 1880, and the average farm size plummeted from over 500 acres to approximately 100 acres.²⁴ Although most owners of Southern farms established in the South in the late nineteenth century were white, African Americans contributed to this increase by acquiring land, despite the efforts of many Southern whites to curtail black farm ownership. Among whites, the practice of partible inheritance also contributed to the decrease in farm size and the increase in the number of farms.²⁵ For example, Ben Dudley owned substantially less land than his father, who divided his 900 acres of land into several smaller farms. Owner-operated farms in the South in the late 1800s generally ranged from fifty to 300 acres, but owners of larger tracts typically cultivated only a portion of their total landholdings. With between 280 and 360 acres of land, the Dudleys had a larger farm than most owner-operated farms, but they, too, did not cultivate all of the land.²⁶

Dudley Farm is situated in the coastal plain of Florida, one of several geophysical regions of the South where owner-operated farms predominated in the late 1800s and early 1900s (Figure 2). After the Civil War, owner-operated farms proliferated in areas where slavery and plantation agriculture did not have a strong foothold before the war and where the land was adequate but not exceptionally fertile or easy to cultivate. For instance, in the mountains of the upper Piedmont and the central plateau of Alabama and Tennessee, the hilly terrain hindered the development of plantation agriculture, while the sandy soil of the pine forests and wiregrass regions along the coasts of the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico proved unattractive to aspiring plantation owners.²⁷ One factor contributing to the increase in owner-operated farms in the forests of the coastal plains

2).

²³ The geographical region associated with this historic context generally follows that of Edward L. Ayers, *The Promise of the New South: Life After Reconstruction*, 15th anniversary ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007), pp. 3-6, except for Kentucky, which is excluded because it was not part of the Confederacy and its agricultural development took a different path after the Civil War. The Appalachian Mountains are included, but mountain farmers were generally affected more by the infiltration of mining and timber industries than by greater involvement in commercial agriculture.

²⁴ United States Agricultural Census, Alachua County, Florida, 1860 and 1880.

²⁵ Partible inheritance is the practice of dividing a deceased person's real estate among heirs (usually siblings).

²⁶ Eighty acres along the northern boundary of the property was forested; in the 1980s, Myrtle Dudley described this area – which is not currently owned by the State of Florida – as “virgin pine forest” (Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 2A, p. 1). Between 1897 and 1903, the assessed value of the 40 acres surrounding the house and farm buildings was equal to the assessed value of the remaining 240 acres, further indicating that not all of the land was under cultivation (Tax Bills, 1897-1903, DUFA 6.97A).

²⁷ Edward L. Ayers, *The Promise of the New South: Life after Reconstruction*, 15th anniversary ed. (Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2007), pp. 4-6; Steven Hahn, *The Roots of Southern Populism: Yeoman Farmers and the Transformation of the Georgia Upcountry, 1850-1890* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1983), pp. 4, 17-49; Mark Wetherington, *The New South*

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was that more land was made available for cultivation after the Civil War. Starting in the 1870s, timber companies and manufacturers of turpentine and naval stores harvested the region's pine forests, leaving in their wake tracts of cleared land ready for cultivation.²⁸ During this "remarkable boom," the improved acreage in Alachua County more than doubled in the 1880s and 1890s.²⁹

In areas such as the coastal plains along the Gulf of Mexico, which were sparsely populated or only recently settled when the Civil War began in 1861, farmers found large tracts of land still available to purchase. In north-central Florida, where the Dudley Farm is located, large plantations worked by slaves were common before 1861, but the oldest of these, including that of Ben Dudley's father, were only ten to twenty years old. Typically, in areas characterized by long-settled plantations and a large enslaved population before the war, less land was available for owner-operators. In 1880, owner-operated farms accounted for one-quarter to one-third of the farms in these areas. They worked the less desirable pieces of land nestled between the larger plantations, which occupied the most fertile tracts and had the easiest access to navigable rivers.³⁰

Despite the large numbers of owner-operated farms in the southeastern United States between the Civil War and World War II, much of the scholarship on Southern agriculture during this period focuses on sharecroppers, tenants, and planter-landlords. General works on Southern agriculture such as those by Gilbert Fite, Pete Daniel, and Jack Temple Kirby provide some information about owner-operators, but these scholars are primarily interested in the creation and evolution of the systems of sharecropping and tenancy that perpetuated rural poverty and trapped poor farmers in cycles of debt.³¹ Steven Hahn's *The Roots of Southern Populism: Yeoman Farmers and the Transformation of the Georgia Upcountry, 1850-1890* (1983) addresses the challenges that owner-operators and tenant farmers faced as a result of the expansion of commercial agriculture and the rise of tenancy, but does not carry the story of these farmers beyond the collapse of the Populist Party in 1896. Studies of agricultural reform and sub-regions such as the wiregrass, eastern North Carolina, and the Cumberland Valley identify common themes in the history of small and mid-sized farms in the postbellum era and expose the ways in which their fortunes and experiences varied by race, geographical region, crop, and farm size.³² Melissa Walker's *All We Knew Was to Farm: Rural Women in the Upcountry South, 1919-1941* (2000) and

Comes to Wiregrass Georgia, 1860-1910 (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1994), pp. 1-26; Lou Ferleger and John D. Metz, *Cultivating Success in the South: Farm Households in the Postbellum Era*, Cambridge Studies on the American South (New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2014), pp. 20-24.

²⁸ Adrienne Monteith Petty, *Standing Their Ground: Small Farmers in North Carolina since the Civil War* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013), pp. 33, 44; Wetherington, *The New South Comes to Wiregrass Georgia*, pp. 128, 158-160; Melissa Walker and James C. Cobb, eds., *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, Vol. 11: Agriculture and Industry (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008), pp. 310, 325.

²⁹ "Floridiana," *The Florida Agriculturalist* Vol. 25 (May 4, 1898), p. 187 (quotation); Charles Sprague Sargent, *Report of the Forests of North America* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1884), p. 521; United States Agricultural Census, Alachua County, Florida, 1880 and 1910.

³⁰ The major antebellum and postbellum plantation regions include coastal South Carolina and Georgia, the Mississippi River valley from New Orleans to Kentucky, and the Black Belt, an arc of rich, fertile soil that lies primarily within Alabama and Mississippi. On the geography of yeoman farms in plantation regions, see Stephanie McCurry, *Masters of Small Worlds: Yeoman Households, Gender Relations, and the Political Culture of the Antebellum South Carolina Low Country* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997), p. 25.

³¹ Gilbert Courtland Fite, *Cotton Fields No More: Southern Agriculture, 1865-1980*, New Perspectives on the South (Lexington, Ky.: University Press of Kentucky, 1984); Pete Daniel, *Breaking the Land: The Transformation of Cotton, Tobacco, and Rice Cultures Since 1880* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1985); Jack Temple Kirby, *Rural Worlds Lost: The American South, 1920-1960* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1987).

³² Wetherington, *The New South Comes to Wiregrass Georgia*; Petty, *Standing Their Ground*; Jeanette Keith, *Country People in the New South: Tennessee's Upper Cumberland*, Studies in Rural Culture (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1995); Claire Strom, *Making Catfish Bait out of Government Boys: The Fight against Cattle Ticks and the Transformation of the Yeoman South*, Environmental History and the American South (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2009).

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LuAnn Jones's *Mama Learned Us to Work: Farm Women in the New South* (2002) shed light on the gender division of labor on owner-operated farms in the early twentieth century and the economic importance of women's work on Southern farms. Although these works collectively illuminate the history and significance of owner-operated farms in the South, there is no overarching history of this group of farmers.

The Rural South: Work and Society at Dudley Farm

With between 280 and 360 acres of land, Dudley Farm was substantially larger than most owner-operated farms in Alachua County, where the average farm size was about 100 acres.³³ Yet, rather than relying primarily on hired laborers or tenants, the Dudley family did much of the farm and household work themselves.³⁴ With twelve children of their own and seven of Fannie Dudley's younger siblings living with them in the late 1800s, Ben and Fannie Dudley had many mouths to feed but also a ready supply of workers (Figure 6). Myrtle Dudley, the youngest child of Ben and Fannie Dudley and the last Dudley to live on the property, recalled that family members worked from sunup to sundown and had little energy for recreational activities in the evenings. The children worked on the farm when school was not in session and upon returning home from school in the afternoon.³⁵

Like many prosperous, white owner-operators, the Dudleys hired African American farm laborers and domestic workers. Some of these workers, including members of the Childs, Clark, and Hurst families, came from African-American landowning families who used off-farm work to supplement income from their own farms. In interviews conducted in the 1980s, Myrtle Dudley remembered that her father "paid the laborers that worked on the farm with meals and [cane] syrup and meat."³⁶ Workers earned cash wages at a daily rate, but many took some of their payment in the form of groceries. In the 1920s and 1930s, Ralph Dudley employed both men and women for seasonal work in the fields, often hiring multiple members of the same families. One of the most frequently employed workers listed in a 1930 ledger kept by Ralph Dudley was sixteen-year-old Major Hurst (1914-1969). Hurst worked for Ralph Dudley three to five days a week through much of the year. Rebecca Perkins (1847-1934) and Emma Morgan Nelson (1909-2002) worked in the Dudley household. Perkins helped take care of the Dudley children in the late 1800s and early 1900s and was a midwife to the community. She and her husband owned forty acres of land immediately adjacent to Dudley Farm, and their house reportedly remains standing. Nelson, whose family owned land near Dudley Farm, did laundry and household work for the Dudleys in the 1930s and early 1940s. Both Nelson and Hurst worked for the Dudleys until the 1960s.³⁷

Churches, schools, stores, and post offices were important institutions in rural communities in the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century South and figured prominently in the lives of the Dudley family, as

³³ From 1880 until 1940, the average farm size in the county remained between 90 and 100 acres. U.S. Agricultural Census, Alachua County, Florida, 1880-1940.

³⁴ Fannie Dudley's brother, George Wynne, "homesteaded" the 80 acres to the north of the main Dudley Farm, taking possession of it in 1890 at about the time he turned 21, and transferring it back to Ben and Fannie Dudley in 1903. After Ben Dudley died in 1918, Ralph Dudley moved to Dudley Farm to help his mother and began renting out a 160-acre tract to the east that his parents bought for him in 1917. The two tenants known to lease this property during the period of significance (J.S. Toney and J. Ernest Carlisle) were white men. Dudley, Prescott, and Dye, interview (1989), Tape #1, p. 4; Ralph Dudley Labor Journal, account with J.E. Carlisle, 1930-1931, DUFA 6.419. The Dudley Farm Archives contain undated sharecropping agreements between J.S. Toney and Ralph Dudley, as well as correspondence regarding the terms of the agreement.

³⁵ Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 2A, pp. 7-10.

³⁶ Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 4A, p. 1.

³⁷ Emma Morgan married Frank Nelson after 1940. Ralph Dudley Labor Journal, 1930-1931, DUFA 6.419; DuPree, Grant, and Bartlett, *Historical Research*, pp. 90-91, Appendix A (Lyman Long and Kermit Clark, interviews with Sherry DuPree), Appendix 3C (Laborers in Section, Township, Range and Census), pp. 2, 7-10, 12-17, 19, and , and Appendix 4C (Workers on Dudley Farm), pp. 2-3; Pickard, pp. 15-16, 66-67. On African American landowners and off-farm work, see Ayers, *Promise of the New South*, p. 209.

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well.³⁸ The Dudleys were members of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Gainesville but regularly attended Jonesville Baptist Church, which was located near the farm and provided opportunities to see neighbors.³⁹ All of the Dudley children attended school, either in Jonesville or in Newberry.⁴⁰ From the 1880s until the mid-1910s, the family operated a small store (#27) at the farm's southern edge; from 1892 to 1894, the store also functioned as the post office for about fifteen to twenty families. Country stores and post offices such as the one at Dudley Farm served as gathering places for local white men to share news and socialize. After closing the store in about 1915, the Dudleys moved the building approximately 200 feet to the north of its original location on the north side of the Old Gainesville Road.⁴¹

When noting Ben Dudley's visits to nearby Gainesville in the early 1900s, the local paper described him as "a well-to-do planter" and described his property as "one of the most prolific farms" in the area west of Gainesville.⁴² Unlike the planter-landlords, Ben Dudley, despite his large and successful farm and his father's involvement in local government, did not hold any positions of political power, though Fannie Dudley's youngest brother, George Wynne, served as a deputy sheriff.⁴³ The Dudleys did not adopt the lifestyle of wealthy planter-landlords, nor did they seek political power, but the social and financial security that they had as a result of being white and owning a large, unmortgaged farm helped alleviate some of the hardships of rural life. For example, they were able to travel for specialized medical care for their youngest daughter, Myrtle, who was born prematurely in 1901 and suffered a variety of medical problems, some of which required surgery.⁴⁴ Because they had the means to hire workers and had spare mules and horses, their children, especially their daughters, were also able to spend more time at school. All of the Dudley girls graduated from high school, one (Edna) attended university, and five became teachers. The boys attended school at least through the eighth grade.⁴⁵

Compared to African Americans, Southern whites such as the Dudleys had more educational opportunities, better access to health care, a wider range of jobs to choose from, better chances at landownership, and the uncontested right to vote and run for office. As historian Mark Schultz observes, white supremacy in the rural South took the forms of "economic exploitation, paternalism, ... an etiquette of subordination..., violence, disfranchisement, and civic nonpersonhood." Starting in the 1890s, Southern state governments passed laws placing obstacles in African Americans' path to the ballot box, while local officials and the threat of violence ensured that only a small minority of blacks voted. Black Southerners were at the mercy of white law enforcement and courts, who routinely denied them basic civil rights and legal protections. Backed by economic power and the ever-present threat of violence, whites demanded deference from African Americans in day-to-day interactions. White landlords and employers cheated and mistreated African American sharecroppers,

³⁸ Walker and Cobb, *New Encyclopedia*, Vol. 11, pp. 108-109, 110-112; Ayers, *The Promise of the New South*, pp. 211-213.

³⁹ Confirmation Certificates, Edna Dudley, 1904 (DUFA 55), Winifred Dudley, 1904, (DUFA 56), Mary Catherine Dudley, 1902 (DUFA 57), Laura Dudley, 1903 (DUFA 58); Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 5A, p. 4, DUFA; Pickard, pp. 40-41, 46. The Dudley Farm collection includes copies of the Episcopalian Book of Common Prayer, as well as other religious books associated with the Episcopal Church.

⁴⁰ Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 2A, pp. 1-2.

⁴¹ Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 1A, p. 10, and Tape 3A, pp. 12-13; Walker and Cobb, *New Encyclopedia*, Vol. 11, pp. 51, 54-59.

⁴² *Gainesville Daily Sun*, December 30, 1909, p. 8, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/177822822>, and November 24, 1909, p. 8, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/17787530>, accessed September 12, 2016.

⁴³ Pickard, p. 58; Melissa Walker, *All We Knew Was to Farm: Rural Women in the Upcountry South, 1919-1941*, Revisiting Rural America (Baltimore, Md: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000), p. 26.

⁴⁴ Pickard, p. 47; Myrtle Dudley, Gordon Garland, and George McLarty, interview by Don Yonkers, October 8, 1984, Tape 6B, pp. 3-7, Dudley Farm (DUFA).

⁴⁵ Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 2A (pp. 1-3) and Tape 6A (pp. 6-10). The Dudley daughters who taught school were Mary Catherine (Dolly), Annie, Edna, Leila, and Winnie.

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tenants, and workers with impunity. Although there is no evidence that the Dudleys cheated black workers or attacked them physically, they addressed black farm workers using racial epithets and called adult African Americans “boy” or “girl.” African Americans challenged and resisted white supremacy, but in doing so risked their economic security, their physical safety, and even their lives.⁴⁶

An illustration of this widespread social dynamic, the murder of a Dudley family relation in the 1910s led to a mob lynching of several African Americans in Alachua County. Though not the only form of racial violence, lynching was a particularly brutal manifestation of the rampant and systemic racism in the rural South. Throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, white mobs tortured and killed African Americans whom they suspected of committing a crime or who violated the written and unwritten rules that demanded black deference to whites.⁴⁷ In 1916, the murder of Fannie Dudley’s brother, Deputy Sheriff George Wynne, was the catalyst for local whites to lynch three African American men and two African American women. In the early hours of the morning on Friday, August 18, Boisy Long, an African American man suspected of stealing hogs, shot and killed Wynne when the deputy sheriff came to apprehend Long. Outraged by the murder, whites in the community quickly organized a posse to capture Long, who escaped on foot. Unable to locate him, the posse pursued his family members and friends, killing one man, Jim Dennis, and taking six others to the county jail. That evening, a mob of white men kidnapped five of the prisoners: Bert and Mary Dennis, Stella Young, Andrew McHenry, and Reverend Josh J. Baskins. The mob lynched all five and left their bodies on display until the following evening. Because she had an infant child, they allowed Boisy Long’s wife, Maria, to live, but ordered her to leave the area and never return. Boisy Long was arrested on Sunday. Later reports indicated that none of the six people murdered by the white mob had assisted Long while he was a fugitive. Although the county held an inquest into the lynching, the all-white grand jury issued no indictments and the identities of those in the lynch mob remain unknown.⁴⁸

Household Production on Owner-Operated Farms

The buildings and history of Dudley Farm illustrate the practice and importance of household production on owner-operated farms in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Like most farmers throughout the South, the Dudleys aimed to produce as much of their own food as possible.⁴⁹ Corn and sweet potatoes were staples of the family’s diet, but they grew a wide variety of foods for home consumption, including scuppernongs, oranges, peaches, berries, peas, beans, peanuts, pecans, walnuts, and sugar cane. The vegetables and small fruits grew in gardens located near the house, while fruit and nut trees were scattered around the farm

⁴⁶ Downs and Masur, “The Era of Reconstruction,” pp. 50-51; Mark Schultz, *The Rural Face of White Supremacy: Beyond Jim Crow* (Urbana, Ill.: University of Illinois Press: 2005), pp. 84-203 (quotation, p. 128); Thomas C. Holt and Laurie B. Green, eds. *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, Vol. 24: Race (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013), pp. 58-61, 167-170; DuPree, Grant, and Bartlett, *Historical Research*, Appendix A (Henry McCray and Ladis Ross, interview by Sherry Sherrod DuPree and Garlenda Greene Grant, October 15, 2005), pp. 8-10, 12.

⁴⁷ Stewart Emory Tolnay and E. M. Beck, *A Festival of Violence: An Analysis of Southern Lynchings, 1882-1930* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1995), pp. 17-51; Schultz, pp. 150-153; Holt and Green, *New Encyclopedia*, Vol. 24, pp. 87-92.

⁴⁸ Pickard, pp. 57-60; “Two Negroes Effect Capture of Murderer, Bring Him to Gainesville and Deliver Him into Custody of Sheriff,” *Gainesville Daily Sun* (August 21, 1916), p. 1; DuPree, Grant, and Bartlett, *Historical Research*, p. 50. In a 1992 interview, Myrtle Dudley named one person who participated in the lynching: Bob Wells. However, there are several indications in this interview that her memory and cognitive function were deteriorating. In none of the prior oral history interviews did she mention names of participants, nor did she say whether or not members of the Dudley family participated in the lynching.

⁴⁹ Pickard, pp. 33-36; Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 1A (p. 9), Tape 2A (p. 4). Scholars such as Mark Wetherington and Steven Hahn who explore the changes wrought by the expansion of commercial cotton cultivation after the Civil War emphasize the decline in yeoman farmers’ self-sufficiency. However, scholars of yeoman farmers in the early twentieth century have shown that despite these declines, household production remained an important component of farm families’ livelihoods. LuAnn Jones, *Mama Learned Us to Work: Farm Women in the New South*, Studies in Rural Culture (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002), pp. 5-13, 52, 53; Walker, *All We Knew Was to Farm*, pp. 21-23; Petty, *Standing Their Ground*, pp. 79-83.

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complex or in groves to its north and east.⁵⁰ The family owned one or two cows for milk, kept a small flock of chickens primarily for eggs, and raised turkeys, ducks, geese, and guineas for meat. They also fished and hunted wild game such as deer, squirrel, quail, doves, and rabbits.⁵¹

Although they kept barnyard poultry and hunted game, the Dudleys got much of their meat from cattle, hogs, and goats that foraged in the woods and watered at sinkholes; the range cows provided milk as well. Prior to 1920, it was common practice for farmers to set livestock loose on the open range.⁵² Most farmers did not have enough land for fenced pastures, and allowing the animals to graze freely saved them the cost of livestock feed.⁵³ As Myrtle Dudley explained in a 1984 interview, cattle round-ups took place in the fall when the calves were still with their mothers so that ownership could be clearly established. The Dudley men then branded the calves with the family's star-shaped brand. Although the Dudleys depended on their open-range hogs and cattle for food, their herds were large enough that they could also sell some livestock for cash. Ben Dudley drove cattle east to Gainesville along a route to the south of the property, which cattle-drivers had used since the mid-1800s, and took the hogs west to Newberry by wagon to be sold and loaded onto rail cars. As Myrtle Dudley noted, the open-range livestock "produced the most for the least value" because they required little time or expense relative to the food and cash they could bring in.⁵⁴

Many of the outbuildings at the Dudley Farm are associated with food processing and preservation. The Dudleys built a covered cellar (#26) specifically for storing sweet potatoes. They owned a mule- or horse-powered cane grinder (#24) for extracting juice from sugar cane, as well as a two-kettle furnace (#25) that the family used not only for making cane syrup, but also for boiling peanuts, scalding hogs, and making lye soap from lard. Each winter, the men butchered cattle and between fifteen and twenty hogs, then smoked meat and sausage in the smokehouse behind the kitchen.⁵⁵ A dairy shed (#11) near the house provided a sheltered area for churning butter, as well as for canning fruits, vegetables, and beef. Constructed above ground and with a double roof, a dairy cabinet in the shed protected milk, eggs, and butter from the Florida heat by allowing cooler air to

⁵⁰ Pickard, pp. 31, 33, 34-35, 52; Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 4A (pp. 1, 2-4, 9), and Tape 5 (p. 1); Dudley, Garland, and McLarty, interview (1984), Tape 7A, pp. 5-6, 8-9, and Tape 8A, p. 1; Myrtle Dudley, interview by Sally Morrison and D. Reddy, February 2, 1990, Tape #4, transcript, p. 13.

⁵¹ Pickard, p. 53; Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 2A (pp. 5-6), Tape 3A (p. 10), Tape 4A (p. 10); Dudley, Garland, and McLarty, interview, Tape 7A, pp. 2-3, 7-10; Myrtle Dudley and Gordon Garland, interview by Sally Morrison, October 13, 1989, Tape #3, pp. 9, 11; Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 2A (pp. 5-6). The Dudleys kept a small herd of sheep in the late 1800s but stopped because too many were getting killed by dogs.

⁵² "The number of cattle [in Florida] increased rapidly from the 1840s until the Civil War. Florida was second only to Texas in per capita value of livestock in the South. After the Armed Occupation Act of 1842, cattlemen from the overstocked states of Georgia, Alabama, and the Carolinas homesteaded 200,000 acres in Florida. Some seized range territory that the Seminoles had been forced to relinquish as a consequence of the Seminole Wars. The newcomers often brought foundation herds that interbred with wild scrub cattle. Few cattlemen owned grazing land since there was extensive open range. By mid-century, ranchers were running large herds on the extensive open range in central and south Florida." See https://www.floridamemory.com/photographiccollection/photo_exhibits/ranching/

⁵³ Ayers, *The Promise of the New South*, pp. 189-190; Walker and Cobb, *New Encyclopedia*, Vol. 11, pp. 159-160; Hahn, *The Roots of Southern Populism*, pp. 243-268; Wetherington, *The New South Comes to Wiregrass Georgia*, pp. 137-138, 152-155, 171-172, 269-270; Ann P. Malone, "Piney Woods Farmers of South Georgia, 1850-1900: Jeffersonian Yeomen in an Age of Expanding Commercialism," *Agricultural History* 60, no. 4 (1986), p. 77.

⁵⁴ Pickard, pp. 52-53; Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 1A (p. 11), Tape 4A (p. 5), Tape 5A (pp. 6, 7); Dudley, Garland, and McLarty, interview, Tape 7A (pp. 2-3 (quotation), 8-11); Dudley, interview (1990), Tape #4, pp. 8-9. In the early 1910s, Ben and Fannie Dudley briefly owned a small herd of Jersey cows, which are a dairy breed, but after a few years, they returned to keeping only one or two cows.

⁵⁵ Pickard, pp. 34-36; Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 2A (p. 8), Tape 4A (pp. 1-3, 6-7), and Tape 5A (p. 1); Dudley, Garland, and McLarty, interview (1984), Tape 7A, p. 4. Interviews with Myrtle Dudley suggest that poultry and goat were eaten fresh and were not preserved through curing or canning.

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circulate between the two roofs and underneath the floor.⁵⁶

The kitchen (#9), dairy shed (#11), chicken coops (#13-15), vegetable gardens, and a collection of handmade quilts testify to the importance of women's work on owner-operated farms. The Dudleys generally adhered to a gendered division of labor that was common among Southern farmers of both races.⁵⁷ The role of men and boys focused on commercial agriculture. Their tasks included plowing the fields, planting and harvesting cash crops, caring for work animals and large livestock, and maintaining fences and buildings. Women helped in the fields when needed, but they were primarily responsible for household production, caring for children, and washing and sewing clothes and bedding. Men contributed to the farm's self-sufficiency by growing crops, butchering livestock, rounding up open-range cattle and pigs, and smoking meat, but much of the work associated with self-provisioning fell to women. They tended barnyard poultry, milked cows, and maintained gardens where they grew vegetables and small fruits. In addition, they preserved fruits and vegetables, churned butter, and prepared meals.⁵⁸

Local exchanges and cooperation with neighbors supplemented farmers' diets and helped to manage surpluses. When they butchered cattle in the summer, the Dudleys shared the meat with their neighbors since it could not be easily preserved in the hot weather; the neighbors would then return the favor when they had beef.⁵⁹ For tasks such as butchering hogs, making cane syrup, boiling peanuts, and canning beef, local farmers gathered at Dudley Farm to work cooperatively and to socialize. Myrtle Dudley recalled "that cane grindin', and then fixin' the syrup and killin' the hogs was kind of a festive occasion..." At syrup-making, the children enjoyed "syrup candy" made of the sticky substance created as syrup was turning into sugar.⁶⁰ In addition to exchanges with neighbors, the Dudleys sold some of their surplus dairy and poultry locally. By the early twentieth century, they were selling dairy products, eggs, and poultry to Gainesville grocers in exchange for cash or store credit.⁶¹

Despite producing much of what they needed on the farm, the Dudleys, like all farmers, were not entirely self-sufficient. They bought foods that could not be produced on the farm, such as salt, sugar, flour, tea, and coffee.⁶² Although the Dudleys bartered with neighbors for wool and sewed their own clothes and quilts, they purchased cloth, shoes, and hats.⁶³ By producing as much as they could on the farm and bartering with neighbors, the Dudleys and other farmers minimized cash expenses, which helped them to avoid debt, a problem that plagued owner-operators as they turned increasingly towards commercial agriculture in the late nineteenth century.

Cotton and the Rise of Commercial Agriculture, 1880-1910

In general, postbellum owner-operators practiced what historian Adrienne Monteith Petty terms "family-

⁵⁶ Pickard, p. 37; Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 4A, pp. 3-4, 10-11; Dudley, Garland, and McLarty, interview (1984), Tape 7A, pp. 4-5

⁵⁷ On the gender division of labor on owner-operated farms generally, see Ayers, *The Promise of the New South*, pp. 205-206; Petty, *Standing Their Ground*, pp. 76, 79-81; Jones, *Mama Learned Us to Work*, pp. 5-14; Walker, *All We Knew Was to Farm*, pp. 21-23.

⁵⁸ Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 2A, pp. 7, 8-10, 11 and Tape 3A; Dudley, Garland, and McLarty, interview, Tape 7A, pp. 1-2, 3. One of the rooms in the house features a quilting frame that can be raised to the ceiling when not in use.

⁵⁹ Dudley, Garland, and McLarty, interview (1984), Tape 7A, pp. 4, 5.

⁶⁰ Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 4A, pp. 2-3 (quotation, p. 2); Dudley, Garland, and McLarty, interview (1984), Tape 7A, p. 12.

⁶¹ Pickard, p. 53; Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 1A, p. 5; Dudley, Garland, and McLarty, interview, Tape 7A, p. 8; Dudley and Garland, interview (1989), Tape #3, pp. 9, 11; Petty, *Standing Their Ground*, pp. 81-83.

⁶² Petty, *Standing Their Ground*, pp. 77-79; Ayers, *The Promise of the New South*, pp. 187-188.

⁶³ Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 1A (p. 9), Tape 2A (p. 7), Tape 3A (p. 13), Tape 4A (p. 13), Tape 7A (p. 7).

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oriented commercial agriculture.”⁶⁴ In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Ben and Fannie Dudley’s primary cash crop was cotton, reflecting the crop’s continued dominance in the South after the Civil War. Although cotton production fell during and immediately after the war, cotton production in 1880 exceeded pre-war levels and continued to increase over the next three decades, thanks in part to the spread of cotton cultivation among owner-operator farmers as they transitioned from primarily subsistence farming to this commercial crop. Before the Civil War, landowning farmers in the region who possessed few or no slaves generally raised only a little cotton. But with high cotton prices in the late 1860s and early 1870s, production of cotton for commercial sale was an attractive source of cash to pay taxes, settle wartime debts, and purchase supplies. At the same time, the construction of tens of thousands of miles of railroads in the region between 1860 and 1900 made it easier for previously isolated farmers to sell and transport cotton to market. The railroads, meanwhile, increased the availability of commercial fertilizers, which made cotton cultivation viable in areas where the soil was marginal and small, subsistence farms more prevalent.⁶⁵ In places where railroads came early, such as the Upper Piedmont of Georgia and the pine woods of north-central Florida, where Dudley Farm is located, cotton cultivation on small Southern farms increased in the 1870s and 1880s. In the sparsely settled and isolated wiregrass region of Georgia, the cotton boom occurred between 1890 and 1910.⁶⁶ Other regions such as southeastern North Carolina saw a similar turn towards commercial agriculture in the late 1800s, but with a mix of tobacco, cotton, and truck farming.⁶⁷

Increased involvement in commercial agriculture (i.e., the cultivation of crops such as tobacco, cotton, or vegetables for sale) made it more difficult for many smaller farmers to raise their own food. As they devoted more of their limited acreage to commercial crops, they reduced production of corn, sweet potatoes, and other food crops. In some areas, the expansion of commercial agriculture led to new laws requiring that livestock be fenced, hampering small farmers’ ability to keep subsistence cattle. Open-range livestock remained legal throughout much of the South through the early twentieth century, but the forest industries destroyed forage in the coastal plains and opened the door to more land coming under cultivation, reducing the amount of viable range land.⁶⁸ At the same time, purchasing food became more convenient. With the expansion of the railroads and the proliferation of towns and crossroads stores, subsistence farmers in the late 1800s were more likely than antebellum farmers to be in relatively close proximity to a store.⁶⁹ From the late 1880s until about 1915, one

⁶⁴ Petty, *Standing Their Ground*, pp. 5, 9-10, 29, 31-32, 43 (quotation), 77-78; Strom, *Making Catfish Bait out of Government Boys*, pp. 43-45; Fite, *Cotton Fields No More*, pp. 32-33; Wetherington, *The New South Comes to Wiregrass Georgia*, pp. 9-12, 15-18, 142-148. On African American landowners after the Civil War, see Gregory P. Downs and Kate Masur, “The Era of Reconstruction, 1861-1900: A National Historic Landmarks Theme Study,” National Historic Landmarks Theme Study (Washington, D.C.: National Historic Landmarks Program, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 2017), p. 20, and Fite, *Cotton Fields No More*, pp. 20-21.

⁶⁵ Walker and Cobb, *New Encyclopedia*, Vol. 11, pp. 317-318; Harold D. Woodman, “Class, Race, Politics, and the Modernization of the Postbellum South,” *Journal of Southern History* 63, no. 1 (February 1997): 3-4; Hahn, *The Roots of Southern Populism*, pp. 139-146; Wetherington, *The New South Comes to Wiregrass Georgia*, pp. 47-62, 155-165; Ferleger and Metz, *Cultivating Success in the South*, pp. 24-25, 30-32; Fite, *Cotton Fields No More*, p. 93.

⁶⁶ Hahn, *The Roots of Southern Populism*, pp. 146-150; Ferleger and Metz, *Cultivating Success in the South*, pp. 15-24; Pickard, pp. 5-6; Wetherington, *The New South Comes to Wiregrass Georgia*, pp. 168-169; Malone, “Piney Woods Farmers of South Georgia, 1850-1900: Jeffersonian Yeomen in an Age of Expanding Commercialism,” pp. 58-60, 77. Both Malone and Wetherington acknowledge that some of the dramatic increase in cotton production in these regions was due to more land being cultivated, but they also note that increases in production of corn – a major subsistence crop – did not keep pace with the increases in cotton production.

⁶⁷ Petty, *Standing Their Ground*, pp. 5, 40-48; Fite, *Cotton Fields No More*, pp. 11-14; Daniel, *Breaking the Land*, pp. 31-32. In still other regions, including the Upper Cumberland Valley of Tennessee and the Appalachian Mountains, small farmers continued to focus on subsistence agriculture well into the 1920s. See Keith, *Country People in the New South*, pp. 173-177.

⁶⁸ Ayers, *The Promise of the New South*, pp. 189-190; Fite, *Cotton Fields No More*, pp. 7-9; Hahn, *The Roots of Southern Populism*, pp. 243-268; Wetherington, *The New South Comes to Wiregrass Georgia*, pp. 137-138, 152-155, 269-270.

⁶⁹ Ayers, *The Promise of the New South*, pp. 13-14, 81-91; Walker and Cobb, *New Encyclopedia*, Vol. 11, pp. 50-51, 55; Hahn, *The Roots of Southern Populism*, pp. 177-178.

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such crossroads store stood on Dudley Farm at the intersection of roads leading to the nearby towns of Gainesville, Archer, and Newberry. In the Dudley store (#27), residents of the small rural community near the farm could use cash or cotton to purchase canned and salted meats, canned fish, seasonings, coffee, sugar, tobacco, candy, crackers, and a few patent medicines.⁷⁰ Although commercial agriculture and the increase in the number of stores contributed to a decline in self-provisioning in the closing decades of the nineteenth century, owner-operator farmers still raised most of their own food.

Growing more cotton and producing less food left many owner-operator farmers vulnerable to debt when cotton prices starting falling in the late 1870s. With hundreds of acres of unmortgaged land sufficient to grow both cotton and subsistence crops, Ben and Fannie Dudley were able to stay out of debt and in fact acted as creditors to other farmers in their capacity as storekeepers. But farmers with smaller tracts of land found that when crops failed or cotton prices fell, the proceeds from the sale of cotton were not always enough to settle accounts with local merchants and landowners. Their creditors then secured liens on the next year's cotton harvest, shackling farmers to the crop. Many small, landowning farmers lost their land as a result of unpaid merchant debt, contributing to a steady rise in the numbers of tenant farmers and sharecroppers.⁷¹

Merchant debt, farm foreclosures, high railroad freight rates, and the reduction of the open range in the late nineteenth century spurred farmers of both races to band together to promote their economic interests. From the 1870s to the mid-1890s, farmers' organizations such as the National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry, the Agricultural Wheel, and the Farmers' Alliance championed cooperation among farmers and promoted measures to protect farmers from exploitation by railroad companies and merchants; most of these organizations had separate chapters for blacks and whites. Although there is no evidence that Ben Dudley was involved in any farmers' organizations, Alachua County had active chapters of the Grange, the Farmers' Alliance, and the Florida Farmers' Union. In 1890, the Farmers' Alliance held a national meeting in Ocala in neighboring Marion County, where the delegates laid the groundwork for the organization to become more involved in national politics. Two years later, the white Farmers' Alliance was one of several groups that joined together to form the People's Party, or Populists. Populism particularly appealed to white farmers like the Dudleys, who owned small or mid-sized tracts of land and struggled to balance the competing demands of commercial and subsistence agriculture. The Populists ran candidates in national elections on a platform that targeted the economic power of large corporations, perceived as exploiting farmers and workers. Torn apart by internal fighting and racist attitudes that prevented white farmers from forming a political alliance with African American farmers, the People's Party collapsed by 1896.⁷²

Agricultural Reform and Cattle Tick Eradication, 1870-1930

The same problems that led farmers to organize also drew the attention of agricultural reformers and state and federal governments. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, agriculture in the South was inefficient and unproductive compared to the Midwest and Great Plains, and Southern farmers and agricultural laborers were among the poorest people in the nation. Scientists and reformers placed most of the blame for the region's agricultural woes on over-dependence on cotton, the decline of subsistence farming, outdated farming practices,

⁷⁰ Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 1A, p. 10 and Tape 3A, pp. 12-13; Pickard, pp. 31-32.

⁷¹ Fite, *Cotton Fields No More*, pp. 5-9, 27-28; Hahn, *The Roots of Southern Populism*, pp. 165-169, 180-187; Walker and Cobb, *New Encyclopedia*, Vol. 11, pp. 55-56, 66-67.

⁷² Ayers, *The Promise of the New South*, pp. 214-281; Walker and Cobb, *New Encyclopedia*, Vol. 11, pp. 66-71; Hahn, *The Roots of Southern Populism*, pp. 270-282; Fite, *Cotton Fields No More*, pp. 49-62. On farmers' organizations in Alachua County, see Omar H. Ali, *In the Lion's Mouth: Black Populism in the New South*, Margaret Walker Alexander Series in African American Studies (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2013), p. 45; *The Rural New Yorkers* 50 (April 18, 1891), pp. 309-310; "Grange Organizations and Elections," *The Rural Carolinian* 5, no. 8 (May 1874): 427.

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and soil erosion and depletion. Agricultural societies and journals called for Southern farmers to diversify their crops, increase their livestock holdings, and produce more of their own food, arguing that these measures would insulate farmers from fluctuations in cotton prices, reduce cash purchases and debt, and rejuvenate the soil. They also urged Southern farmers to adopt scientifically based farming methods.⁷³

Starting in the 1870s, state agricultural experiment stations and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) conducted research on topics such as fertilizers, pest control, crop rotation, livestock disease, and alternatives to cotton and tobacco, then disseminated the information to farmers through free, published bulletins. In 1914, the Smith-Lever Act created agricultural and home extension services to promote modern farming practices, crop diversification, soil conservation, and home production of food.⁷⁴ The Dudleys were avid consumers of agricultural bulletins published by state and federal agencies and the extension services. The Dudley Farm archives contain over one hundred bulletins on a wide variety of subjects, including caring for poultry and livestock, preventing livestock diseases, controlling insects and rodents that damage crops and orchards, planting crops, improving soil quality, and managing farms. Bulletins related to household production cover topics such as nutrition, health, clothes moths, and food preservation and storage.

As white owner-operators with large amounts of land and little debt, the Dudleys were well-positioned to receive and benefit from the advice provided by agricultural reformers. Home and agricultural extension services in the South were racially segregated, and extension programs for African American farmers were poorly funded. Despite the best efforts of black agricultural reformers and the few black extension agents, African American farmers were far less likely than white farmers to receive information about efficient farming practices and home production. Even if they did receive information about improving farming methods, tenants and sharecroppers could not implement most of these reforms because landlords controlled their crop mix. Planter-landlords, meanwhile, generally had little interest in promoting more efficient farming practices or improving soil quality since they did not work the land themselves.⁷⁵

Unwilling to challenge the underlying structures of racism, sharecropping, and tenancy that kept many Southern farmers impoverished, white extension agents and agricultural reformers focused their efforts on prosperous, white, landowning farmers like the Dudleys. These farmers were more likely to be able to read farm bulletins and had the land and cash to introduce new crops, grow more fruits and vegetables, or increase livestock herds. They also had economic incentive to improve efficiency and soil quality because they owned and worked their land. However, as historian Gilbert Fite notes, when agricultural reformers preached crop diversification, livestock ownership, and home production to prosperous owner-operator farmers, it “was a message being preached to the converted.” Owner-operators in the South at the turn of the twentieth century produced less food at home than did their counterparts before the Civil War, but the Dudleys and others like them were committed to raising subsistence crops and livestock in order to preserve their economic independence and reduce expenses.⁷⁶

The cattle-dipping vat (#29) on Dudley Farm illustrates one of the most far-reaching and controversial agricultural reforms in the early twentieth-century South—the campaign to eradicate Texas cattle fever. Prevalent among open-range cattle herds throughout the region, the disease reduced milk production and weight gain in Southern cattle. As Southern cattle ranchers drove infected animals north for sale in the late nineteenth

⁷³ Fite, *Cotton Fields No More*, pp. 67-82.

⁷⁴ *Ibid*, pp. 76-82; Daniel, *Breaking the Land*, p. 16.

⁷⁵ Fite, *Cotton Fields No More*, pp. 82-90, 99-101, 115; Daniel, *Breaking the Land*, pp. 9-12, 16.

⁷⁶ Fite, *Cotton Fields No More*, p. 116 (quotation); Daniel, *Breaking the Land*, p. 13; Petty, *Standing Their Ground*, pp. 76-

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century, they discovered that the disease was fatal to Northern cattle who had not developed natural immunities. In response, Northern states and the federal government imposed restrictions on the sale and transport of Southern cattle, hampering the development of commercial cattle ranching in the South. In 1893, researchers discovered that the disease was caused by a parasite transmitted by the cattle tick. To protect Northern cattle and encourage commercial cattle-raising in the South, scientists in state and federal governments and agricultural colleges recommended dipping cattle in an arsenic solution to kill the disease-transmitting tick. State and federal governments encouraged cattle-dipping and provided some funds, but ultimately, these programs were approved, funded, and implemented at the county level.⁷⁷

The origin of the dipping vat at Dudley Farm illustrates the process by which cattle tick eradication was implemented. In the early 1900s, a few cattlemen in Alachua County constructed dipping vats to treat their own commercial herds, but most of the county's cattle remained untreated.⁷⁸ In 1917, local farmers, with assistance and encouragement from the county extension service and the USDA, launched a concerted effort to rid Alachua County of Texas cattle fever entirely. After a county-wide referendum the following year, the local government funded the construction of dipping vats throughout the county and mandated that all cattle be dipped. Built between 1918 and 1920, the vat at Dudley Farm followed standard designs provided by the Florida State Board of Health (Figure 5). Cattle made their way through a narrow chute to the edge of the vat, where they stepped off a ledge into the dipping solution. The animals then swam to the opposite end of the vat, where they clambered up a ramp and exited onto a concrete pad.⁷⁹

While the cattle tick eradication program in Alachua County proceeded peacefully, mandatory cattle-dipping met sustained and sometimes violent resistance from smaller farmers in other parts of the South. Since they did not sell their cattle in northern markets, smaller farmers had little or nothing to gain from the time and expense of eliminating Texas cattle fever. Farmers had to take the animals to the vats to be dipped eight to ten times per year, a process that historian Claire Strom describes as particularly "onerous and expensive" for small farmers. After being dipped, cattle had to be kept in fenced enclosures to prevent reinfection. For farmers, tenants, and sharecroppers who did not have enough land for enclosed cattle pastures, these measures spelled the end of subsistence cattle.⁸⁰ In a 1990 interview, Myrtle Dudley remembered that many local farmers did not have enough land for both cattle and crops: "... they couldn't have the cattle and the farm together so they had to sell their cattle." As a result, poorer farmers were unable to keep open-range cows and cattle.⁸¹ Although the Dudleys had to sell some of their range cattle and cows, they had enough land to create some pastures. For them, the effort to eradicate Texas cattle fever opened up new opportunities for them to raise commercial livestock. In the 1920s, Ralph Dudley purchased Hereford cattle (a breed of beef cattle) and pastured them in

⁷⁷ The cattle tick generally does not survive in areas with less than two hundred frost-free days, and its range is roughly the same as that of cotton cultivation. Claire Strom, "Texas Fever and the Dispossession of the Southern Yeoman Farmer," *The Journal of Southern History* 66, no. 1 (2000): 49-56, 60, 63-64, 66-68.

⁷⁸ Joe A. Akerman, *Florida Cowman: A History of Florida Cattle Raising* (Kissimmee, FL: Florida Cattlemen's Association, 1976), pp. 234-235; "A.L. Jackson is Building Cattle-Dipping Vat," *Gainesville Daily Sun*, April 20, 1913, p. 1.

⁷⁹ Book H of the Alachua County Commissioners Minutes contains numerous references to payments for the construction of dipping vats, for which the county paid half of the expense. Although the Dudley vat is not mentioned specifically, the minutes do not always identify a specific location of the vats. "Tick Eradication Gets Boost at Micanopy and Archer Thursday, When Stockmen Held Meeting," *Gainesville Daily Sun*, July 27, 1917, p. 2; "Enthusiastic Meeting of Stockmen Discuss Cattle Tick Eradication – Ask 2 Mill Tax," *Gainesville Daily Sun*, August 8, 1917, p. 1; Alachua County Commissioners Minutes, September 5, 1918, Book H, p. 424. On the standard design of cattle-dipping vats, see Charles F. Dawson (Veterinary Division), *Cattle Tick Eradication*, Reprinted From the Twenty-Fourth Annual Report of the State Board of Health, Publication 103 (DeLand, FL: E.O. Painter Printing Company, 1913), DUFA 2.2339.

⁸⁰ Strom, "Texas Fever," pp. 49-51, 63-74 (quotation, p. 50); Petty, *Standing Their Ground*, pp. 62-65; Akerman, *Florida Cowman*, pp. 234-243.

⁸¹ Dudley, interview (1990), Tape #4, p. 13.

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fenced enclosures. A 1937 aerial photograph shows that most of the land in the farm was cleared and fenced by that time. The Dudleys continued to raise beef cattle until the 1970s.⁸²

Diversification in Commercial Farming, 1920-1945

Between 1920 and 1945, the Dudleys abandoned cotton in favor of a combination of cattle, truck crops, peanuts, tobacco, and poultry. This shift reflected a transition to even greater agricultural commercialization, and a broader erosion of cotton's dominance on owner-operated farms in the southeastern United States. One factor that contributed to the decline of cotton was the boll weevil, an insect that lays eggs on cotton plants and interferes with the growth of the fibers. The weevil gradually migrated east from Mexico between 1890 and 1920, damaging cotton crops and reducing yields as it went. The insect was particularly damaging to Sea Island cotton, which was prevalent in Alachua County in the late 1800s. Because of the insect's devastating effects on Sea Island cotton, the number of acres planted in cotton in Alachua County plummeted from nearly 19,000 in 1909 to roughly 2,000 in 1919, two years after the boll weevil arrived in the county.⁸³

The Dudleys cultivated at least some short-staple cotton, which helped them weather the boll weevil infestation much better than other local farmers who cultivated only Sea Island cotton.⁸⁴ After Ben Dudley died in 1918, his son Ralph took up the fight against the boll weevil, acquiring a copy of a 1922 bulletin that provided instructions for clearing weevils from cotton fields before planting, to minimize damage.⁸⁵ Although agricultural experiment stations, extension services, and the federal government freely offered advice on how to manage the pest, farmers in the Southeast found it increasingly difficult to compete with cotton growers farther west in areas such as Oklahoma and Texas, where the dry climate made it easier to control the weevil and cotton farms were more mechanized.⁸⁶

High cotton prices during World War I allowed cotton to remain as the dominant crop in the southeastern United States until 1920. But after the end of World War I, cotton prices fell sharply marking the beginning of an agricultural depression. Over the next two decades, global economic patterns and government policies loosened cotton's grip on the region's owner-operator farmers. As farm income fell in the 1920s, taxes and fertilizer prices rose, drawing some farmers into debt and tenancy. Some compensated for the loss in income by taking jobs in nearby mines or textile mills, while still others left farming altogether and sought employment in cities. Meanwhile, African American farmers' emigration from the rural South in the late 1910s and 1920s represented the beginning of a massive migration to the north and west to escape poverty, racial segregation, disfranchisement, and acts of racial terror.⁸⁷

⁸² Pickard, pp. 63, 73; Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 1A, p. 2; Dudley, Garland, and McLarty, interview, Tape 7A, p. 3; Dudley, interview (1990), Tape #4, p. 13.

⁸³ Pickard, p. 38; Francis William Zettler, *A Biohistory of Alachua County, Florida* (Sarasota, FL: Pineapple Press, Inc., 2015), pp. 93-94; U.S. Census Bureau, Agricultural Census, Alachua County, Florida, 1910 and 1920. By 1930, cotton acreage in the county was back up to 3,189, a 60% increase since 1920 yet nowhere near pre-weevil levels. Ten years later, however, the acreage planted in cotton had fallen to 78. On the boll weevil and its impact region-wide, see Fite, *Cotton Fields No More*, pp. 80-81 and Daniel, *Breaking the Land*, pp. 7-16.

⁸⁴ Receipt, Atlantic, Gulf & West India Transit Railroad to Ben Dudley, October 31, 1882, DUFA 6282-3; *Gainesville Daily Sun*, April 20, 1905, p. 8, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/98474705>, and July 9, 1906, p. 5, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/175094838>, accessed September 12, 2016.

⁸⁵ George D. Smith, *A Preliminary Report Upon an Improved Method of Controlling the Boll Weevil*, Bulletin 165 (Gainesville, FL: University of Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, 1922), DUFA 2.2232A.

⁸⁶ Fite, *Cotton Fields No More*, pp. 80-81, 82-83, 91-95; Daniel, *Breaking the Land*, pp. 6-9, 14-16; Guy Stanley Meloy and Conrad Bartling Doyle, *Meade Cotton, an Upland Long-Staple Variety Replacing Sea Island* (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, 1922); Walker and Cobb, *New Encyclopedia*, Vol. 11, pp. 144-145.

⁸⁷ Fite, *Cotton Fields No More*, pp. 98, 102-107; Daniel, *Breaking the Land*, pp. 18-22; Walker, *All We Knew Was to Farm*, pp. 29-31, 35-36; Holt and Green, *New Encyclopedia*, Vol. 24, pp. 101-102.

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In the early 1930s, after more than a decade of depressed cotton prices and battles against the boll weevil, Ralph Dudley ceased growing cotton. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, cotton prices fell even further, prompting intervention from the federal government. Part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, the 1933 Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA) allowed the federal government to pay farmers to destroy crops or reduce the amount of acreage that they devoted to tobacco, cotton, and other select crops in order to prevent over-production. Although there is no known documentation of the exact date or reasoning for ending cotton production on Dudley Farm, it is possible that cotton occupied a small enough portion of their total acreage that it was not practical for them to continue to grow it given the government's acreage restrictions. The AAA and subsequent government programs primarily benefited large landowners who could still grow substantial amounts of cotton and make a profit even after reducing acreage. For farmers who cultivated comparatively small amounts of cotton, the government payments and higher prices were not always enough to compensate for reducing acreage.⁸⁸

The Dudleys and other owner-operators in the southeastern United States mitigated the effects of the depressions of the 1920s and 1930s by diversifying their commercial production. As a result, the region saw gains in production of tobacco, peanuts, truck crops, cattle, and poultry during this period.⁸⁹ At about the same time that Ralph Dudley stopped growing cotton, he began cultivating flue-cured tobacco, a decision that reflected a broader expansion of tobacco production in the southern coastal plains. In 1880, most tobacco farms were situated along the Virginia-North Carolina border, but by 1920, tobacco cultivation spread into the coastal plains of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Alabama. The crop was well-suited to small and mid-sized farms, since these farms could produce a marketable crop on a small amount of land. In addition, because tobacco cultivation was un-mechanized, it required little capital investment beyond the construction of a curing barn.⁹⁰ However, the lack of mechanization also meant that growing and curing tobacco was labor-intensive. In a 1983 interview, Myrtle Dudley described the process of curing tobacco in the 1930s. Ralph Dudley and African-American farm workers hung the harvested tobacco leaves on sticks inside the curing barn (#28) at the farm's southern edge. For the leaves to cure properly, the building's internal temperature had to be kept within the building nearly constant, a feat they achieved by opening and closing vents and changing the type and amount of wood in the furnace. As a result, the barn thermometer and the wood furnace required around-the-clock monitoring during the curing process. After curing and packing the tobacco, the Dudleys sold it at auction houses in south Georgia and in Gainesville.⁹¹

Even before tobacco, Ralph Dudley was already cultivating another crop that was gaining ground in Southern agriculture in the early twentieth century: peanuts. Consumption of peanuts increased dramatically in the early 1900s after scientist George Washington Carver identified hundreds of uses for the legume. For farmers, the crop had the added benefit of restoring nutrients to soil depleted by cotton.⁹² Prior to World War II, peanut cultivation in the South was localized, and Alachua County was one of the areas that increased peanut production in the early twentieth century. Between 1900 and 1930, the number of acres planted in peanuts in

⁸⁸ Fite, *Cotton Fields No More*, pp. 128-134; Daniel, *Breaking the Land*, pp. 92-94, 110-116, 170-172; Kirby, *Rural Worlds Lost*, pp. 56, 60-68; Petty, *Standing Their Ground*, pp. 99-123.

⁸⁹ Fite, *Cotton Fields No More*, pp. 111-113, 158-159; Walker and Cobb, *New Encyclopedia*, Vol. 11, pp. 147, 184-185, 188, 203-204; Daniel, *Breaking the Land*, pp. 31-32.

⁹⁰ Daniel, *Breaking the Land*, pp. 31-33, 35; Petty, *Standing Their Ground*, pp. 46-47; Walker and Cobb, *New Encyclopedia*, Vol. 11, pp. 200-201.

⁹¹ In the late 1940s, Ralph Dudley installed a gas furnace with a thermostat, substantially reducing the amount of labor associated with the curing process. Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 1A, pp. 1-2; Pickard, p. 73. On the process of growing and curing tobacco generally, see Daniel, *Breaking the Land*, pp. 24-31.

⁹² Walker and Cobb, *New Encyclopedia*, Vol. 11, pp. 184-185.

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Alachua County increased fivefold, and by 1930, the crop was second only to corn in the number of acres planted. Ralph Dudley's 1930 ledger shows that he hired additional workers to harvest the peanut crop, and an undated receipt records the sale of over 10,000 pounds of peanuts.⁹³

Like many owner-operators, the Dudleys also sought additional income during this period by truck farming. Cultivation of garden fruits and vegetables for sale in local, regional, and national markets had been on the rise since the 1880s, fueled by growing demand from urban areas and aided by the development of refrigerated rail cars. In the 1920s and 1930s, automobiles made it easier for farmers to transport produce to nearby towns and cities for sale. With its long growing season, Florida was particularly well-suited to truck produce, with various counties specializing in different fruits or vegetables.⁹⁴ The Dudleys raised melons, one of Alachua County's specialties, and in the mid-1930s, Ralph Dudley subscribed to the *Sowega Standard*, a publication of the Southwest Georgia Melon Growers Association.⁹⁵ In addition to growing melons for sale, the Dudleys sold eggs, corn meal, oats, and cane syrup to merchants in nearby Gainesville.⁹⁶ Merchants who purchased produce from local farmers such as the Dudleys then sold these products to wholesalers for distribution to towns and cities along the east coast and in the Midwest. Starting in the 1920s, farm women sold garden produce, dairy products, and eggs at curbside markets organized by agricultural extension services. These markets primarily benefited white farm women, since the racially segregated extension services excluded African-American farmers from participating. By selling fruits, vegetables, eggs, and dairy products that might otherwise be consumed on the farm, farm women blurred the lines between household production and commercial agriculture and challenged the traditional gender division of labor on owner-operated farms.⁹⁷

Myrtle and Winnie Dudley were among the thousands of women on small and mid-sized farms who turned their barnyard chicken flocks into a thriving poultry business during the 1920s and 1930s. The development of incubators, mechanical brooders, and rail cars for transporting chicks, combined with growing demand from urban areas, made it possible for family farmers to profitably raise chickens and eggs for sale. Agricultural extension agents had encouraged Southern farmers to raise poultry commercially since the 1910s. However, it took low crop prices and New Deal acreage reductions to spark significant growth in poultry production on owner-operated farms. Already experienced in raising chickens for eggs and household consumption, farm women throughout the Southeast saw chickens as a means of increasing cash income. Poultry flocks such as the one kept by Myrtle and Winnie Dudley played a crucial role in sustaining family farms during the agricultural depressions of the 1920s and 1930s.⁹⁸

To assist in developing their business, Winnie and Myrtle Dudley requested bulletins on poultry and egg production from the University of Florida Agricultural Extension Service and the Florida Department of Agriculture. At the height of their chicken business, they kept more than 600 Plymouth Rock chickens in eight chicken coops on the property, of which three remain (#13-15). The brooder house (#12), which they equipped with a kerosene heater, could house 100 chicks, and the flock produced hundreds of eggs each day. Twice each

⁹³ Ralph Dudley, handwritten account, n.d., DUFA 6.420; Ralph Dudley Labor Journal, 1930-1931, DUFA 6.419; U.S. Census Bureau, Agricultural Census, Alachua County, Florida, 1930.

⁹⁴ A.P. Spencer and C.M. Berry, *Commercial Truck Crops of Florida*, Bulletin 29 (Gainesville, FL: University of Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, 1921), DUFA 2.2226; Petty, *Standing Their Ground*, pp. 44-46; Kirby, *Rural Worlds Lost*, pp. 42-44; Walker and Cobb, *New Encyclopedia*, Vol. 11, pp. 203-204; Fite, *Cotton Fields No More*, pp. 13-14, 111, 158.

⁹⁵ Ralph Dudley Labor Journal, 1930-1931, DUFA 6.419; *The Sowega Standard* (Adel, Ga.), 13:10 (January 16, 1936), DUFA 247d-5.

⁹⁶ R.W. Dudley, account statement with Tucker & Roland, December 16, 1920-November 19, 1921, DUFA 6.352; R.W. Dudley, account statement with Tucker & Roland [merchants], February 1-March 10, 1920, DUFA 6.387ae.

⁹⁷ Jones, *Mama Learned Us to Work*, pp. 27-79; Walker, *All We Knew Was to Farm*, pp. 33-34, 73-81.

⁹⁸ Jones, *Mama Learned Us to Work*, pp. 81-105.

week, the Dudleys travelled to Gainesville or Newberry to sell the eggs to a hatchery. Myrtle and Winnie Dudley sold their chicken business in 1945 after Winnie suffered health problems.⁹⁹

Decline of Household Production, 1915-1945

Starting in the mid-1910s, automobile ownership and improved roads contributed to changes in where and how often rural families in the South procured food. As cars made travel easier and quicker, crossroads stores closed. For instance, the Dudleys closed their crossroads store (#27) around the time that State Route 26, which lay about one quarter of a mile south of the farm, was laid out and improved with a semi-hard surface. Completed by 1917, this new road diverted traffic from the road by Dudley Farm and made it easier to travel to larger stores in Newberry and Gainesville.¹⁰⁰ The Dudleys, too, went to stores in Newberry and Gainesville more frequently after Ben Dudley purchased a Model T Ford automobile in 1917. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, they had typically traveled to Gainesville only about once every two months to purchase supplies for themselves or for the store. In contrast, account statements from a Gainesville grocer in 1920 and 1921 show the Dudleys visited the store several times each month both to sell items produced on the farm and to purchase food and supplies. In addition to buying sugar, coffee, and flour, the Dudleys purchased items such as rice, sorghum, potatoes, cabbage, and turnips that they would have likely raised on the farm thirty years earlier.¹⁰¹

Although they and other owner-operators continued to raise their own food in the 1920s and 1930s, store-bought food played an ever-greater role in their diets and household economy.¹⁰² Community work events such as cane-grindings and hog-butcherings occurred less and less frequently in the 1930s and eventually stopped in the early 1940s. Meanwhile, the installation of electricity in the early 1940s made it easier to prepare and store food. By the end of World War II, the sweet potato house (#26), the smokehouse (#10), and the milking room (#18) were rarely used.¹⁰³

Farm Machinery, 1920-1945

In the early 1920s, most Southern farms were unmechanized and relied extensively on hand tools and hard labor. Most owner-operators lacked the capital or credit necessary to purchase farm equipment. Also, the smaller size of the farms did not lend itself to mechanization. Tractors and other available farm machinery were useful for breaking ground in large fields and for harvesting oats, corn, and hay, but were far less cost-effective on small tracts of land. Moreover, viable machines to assist with cultivating cotton, tobacco, and peanuts were not widely available until after World War II. During this period, Ralph Dudley began purchasing farm equipment and was able to put Dudley Farm in the vanguard of agricultural mechanization in the early twentieth-century South. Dudley was able to pay cash or secure bank loans for his farm machinery, and he had

⁹⁹ Pickard, p. 69; Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 1A (pp. 3-7, 8) and Tape 4A (pp. 8-9); Dudley, Garland, and McLarty, interview, Tape 7A, pp. 7-8; Dudley, Prescott, and Dye, interview (1989), Tape #1, p. 11.

¹⁰⁰ Pickard, pp. 32-33; Florida State Road Department, *Road Map: State of Florida* (1917); R.W. Dudley, account statement with Tucker & Roland [merchants], February 1 – March 10, 1920, DUFA 6.387ae; R.W. Dudley, account statement with Tucker & Roland, December 16, 1920 – November 19, 1921, DUFA 6.352. Poultry-related bulletins in the Dudley Farm collection include N.W. Sanborn, *Florida Poultry Production* (University of Florida Bulletin 38, June 1923), DUFA 2.2311; Norman R. Mehrhof, *Culling for Egg Production* (University of Florida Extension Bulletin 60, 1931), DUFA 1.388; F.W. Risher, *Poultry Raising in Florida* (Florida State Department of Agriculture, Bulletin #34, May 1936), DUFA 1.391.

¹⁰¹ Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 1A, pp. 8-9; R.W. Dudley, account statement with Tucker & Roland [merchants], February 1 – March 10, 1920, DUFA 6.387ae; R.W. Dudley, account statement with Tucker & Roland, December 16, 1920 – November 19, 1921, DUFA 6.352.

¹⁰² Walker, *All We Knew Was to Farm*, pp. 30-31; Walker and Cobb, *New Encyclopedia*, Vol. 11, pp. 51-53.

¹⁰³ Pickard, pp. 65-66, 70, 72-73; Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 4A, pp. 1, 4; Dudley, Garland, and McLarty, interview, Tape 7A, p. 3. The farm did not get indoor plumbing until the 1950s.

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enough land and a sufficient variety of crops to make mechanization worthwhile.¹⁰⁴ By 1925, Ralph Dudley owned a hay baler, harrow, mower, riding cultivator, thresher, and combine. Until purchasing a tractor in the 1930s, he used horses or mules to power these machines, but may have also used the motor of the family's Model T Ford, a common practice among farmers at the time. In the late 1930s, the percentage of farmers who owned tractors and other machinery increased rapidly as a result of New Deal programs that stabilized agricultural prices and made it easier for farmers to borrow money to purchase farm machinery. Nevertheless, by 1945, the end of the period of significance, the region still lagged far behind other parts of the country in agricultural mechanization.¹⁰⁵

Comparable Properties

The current National Historic Landmarks (NHLs) include several properties that, like Dudley Farm, are recognized as outstanding and representative examples of nationally significant regional trends in the history of American agriculture. Examples include the Spring Hill Ranch in Kansas (NHL, 1997) and the Grant-Kohrs Ranch in Montana (NHL, 2001) for their association with the development of cattle ranching and the Frederick A. and Sophia Bagg Bonanza Farm in North Dakota (NHL, 2005), which is a representative example of a Great Plains bonanza farm. Among NHLs in the southeastern United States, the properties that are designated as representative examples of particular farm types are plantations. Magnolia Plantation (NHL, 2001) and Evergreen Plantation (NHL, 1991), both in Louisiana, illustrate staple-crop agriculture and the role of slave labor in the agricultural economy of the region and the nation. None of the existing NHLs convey the national significance of the rise of owner-operated farms in the South between the Civil War and World War II or the expansion of commercial agriculture on such farms during this period.

Aside from NHLs, other comparable properties comprise owner-operated farms that were active between 1870 and 1945, encompassed between roughly 100 and 400 acres during this period, and illustrate the increasing focus on commercial agriculture. Comparable properties were identified by searching National Register of Historic Places listings, contacting National Historic Landmarks Coordinators in each relevant National Park Service Region, and contacting National Register Coordinators at State Historic Preservation Offices.¹⁰⁶ Analysis of the resources confirmed that Dudley Farm retains a high level of physical integrity relative to other similar properties. Many of the surviving owner-operated farms from this period have only a few surviving outbuildings or include multiple non-historic buildings, structures, and additions. Dudley Farm is also noteworthy in that it combines a large collection of outbuildings with a comparatively intact farm landscape that includes nearly all of the land historically associated with the property. Some of the historic owner-operated farms with strong collections of outbuildings occupy properties that represent only a fraction of the historic farm, while others retain the land but not the built resources.

¹⁰⁴ Pickard, pp. 51, 62; Receipt, Baird Hardware to Ralph Dudley, March 27, 1920 (DUFA); Loan Notice, Bank of Newberry to N.W. Dudley and Ralph W. Dudley, February 26, 1920 (DUFA 6311); Loan Notice, Bank of Newberry to Ralph W. Dudley, July 18, 1924 (DUFA 5312). Documents in the Dudley Farm collection suggest that he took out loans to help pay for the equipment. Although the reason for the loans are not mentioned on the 1920 and 1924 loan receipts in the Dudley Farm collection, the loans coincide with farm equipment purchases.

¹⁰⁵ Fite, *Cotton Fields No More*, pp. 149-157, 185; Ronald R. Kline, *Consumers in the Country: Technology and Social Change in Rural America* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000), pp. 75-77; Daniel, *Breaking the Land*, pp. 175-180; Kirby, *Rural Worlds Lost*, pp. 68, 334-336; Walker and Cobb, *New Encyclopedia*, Vol. 11, pp. 86-87.

¹⁰⁶ SHPOs in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia were contacted. Of these ten SHPOs, eight responded and six suggested properties that might be comparable as follows: Alabama (2); Arkansas (4); Georgia (2); Louisiana (2); South Carolina (1); and Tennessee (multiple properties and a MPS).

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Research into similar properties revealed one owner-operated farm from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries whose physical integrity is comparable to that of Dudley Farm. Situated on National Park Service land on the Buffalo National River in Arkansas, the Parker-Hickman Farm (NRHP, 1985) retains a similar level of integrity as Dudley Farm, possessing a large and intact collection of outbuildings on 195 acres in a rural setting. The Parker-Hickman Farm complements Dudley Farm by illustrating the establishment and evolution of small farms in the Ozarks, where the spread of commercial agriculture came in the form of increased production of timber, grains, and livestock. The buildings and structures at Dudley Farm and Parker-Hickman Farm also reflect the ways in which climate and geography affected building methods; log construction is more prevalent and the framing more substantial on Ozarks farms than those in the coastal plain of Florida. Although researchers have collected some oral histories on the Parker-Hickman Farm, the farm does not possess the same level of extensive primary source documentation as Dudley Farm.

Other properties retain slightly less integrity than Dudley Farm but nevertheless are remarkably intact examples of owner-operated farms from this period. Despite alterations to the main house, Brumfield Homestead in the coastal plain of Louisiana (NRHP, 2014) possesses an outstanding collection of outbuildings that illustrate the shift towards commercial farming in the early twentieth century. Other properties are associated with historical themes not well-represented at Dudley Farm. Operated by both an owner-operator and by a tenant who later purchased the property, the Hyde Farm in the Chattahoochee National Recreation Area illustrates the fine and sometimes fluid line between owner-operators and tenants in piedmont Georgia, and the Morgan Farm (NRHP, 1995) in Sumter County, Georgia, is a particularly good example of a small farm owned and operated by African Americans. As a result of the centennial farms program and a Multiple Property Documentation Form titled *Family Farms of Middle Tennessee* (1995), a large number of owner-operated farms in Tennessee are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, illustrating themes such as southern dairy farming and the role of off-farm work in supporting small farmers. Similarly, North Carolina also has numerous National Register properties that illustrate tobacco cultivation among small farmers in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These properties collectively illustrate the historical, geographical, and architectural diversity of owner-operated farms throughout the South during this period. No single property can convey the entire history of agriculture in the South, but designating Dudley Farm as a National Historic Landmark is an important step towards recognizing the diversity of farms and farmers in the region and their contributions to the history of agriculture in the United States.

Epilogue: Rise of Capital-Intensive Farming, 1945-1980

World War II represents a watershed in the history of farming in the southeastern United States. Between 1945 and 1965, the rural South of small farmers, planter-landlords, sharecroppers, mule-drawn plows, and hand-picked cotton gradually faded. The demographic, technological, and agricultural changes that would ultimately unravel traditional agriculture in the South were already underway in the late 1930s, but World War II accelerated these changes and set the region on the path towards capital-intensive agriculture. The rate of emigration from the rural South increased dramatically during the war as farmers and laborers left the countryside to serve in the armed forces or to work in war-related industries. The resultant labor shortage, combined with high wartime demand for a variety of agricultural products, provided incentives for large landowners to invest in tractors and other farm equipment. Wartime needs also encouraged diversification. After the war, Southern agricultural products included cattle, poultry, soybeans, peanuts, grains, tobacco, rice, sugar cane, fruits, and vegetables.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁷ Walker and Cobb, *New Encyclopedia*, Vol. 11, pp. 33-35; Fite, *Cotton Fields No More*, pp. 160-174.

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Depopulation, mechanization, and diversification transformed Southern agriculture after the war, displacing sharecroppers, tenants, agricultural laborers, and small farmers. Between 1940 and 1960, the South's rural population declined 60%, the number of farms fell, and the average farm size increased. In the 1950s and 1960s, large farmers invested in tractors, mechanical cotton-pickers, pesticides, and herbicides and increased production of crops such as soybeans and grains that required few workers. These large, mechanized farms allowed the cultivation of more acres with fewer workers; thus, sharecropping arrangements gradually disappeared. Meanwhile, small owner-operators had difficulty competing with the large landowners. Likewise, many of the family-based poultry operations that had sustained farm families through the Great Depression went out of business because of competition from large-scale, industrialized poultry producers. The growing dominance of highly capitalized farms pushed many small farmers off the land and set the stage for the spread of contract farming in the 1970s, with farmers producing crops for particular buyers, instead of marketing crops on an open market.¹⁰⁸

Dudley Farm survived the post-World War II transformations in southern agriculture, in part because the Dudleys raised cattle, garden produce, and tobacco, all of which remained largely unaffected by mechanization through the 1960s. The Dudleys and other owner-operator farmers who produced these types of products benefited from increased demand and high prices during and after World War II, while avoiding competition from large, mechanized farms because machinery for harvesting these crops was not available until the 1970s or later.¹⁰⁹

Dudley Farm was able to continue as a family farm for years because they adapted, as necessary, over time in order to remain viable. From the time that Ben and Fannie Dudley established the farm in 1881, the Dudley family members were owner-operators who raised crops and livestock both for home consumption and for sale. Over the next sixty-four years, they increasingly focused on commercial agriculture and household production gradually declined. The resources on their farm represent many aspects of the farming history of this region, from the sweet potato cellar, dairy/canning shed, smokehouse, milking room, cane mill and cane syrup house that illustrate the range of household food production, to the chicken coops, brooder house, tobacco barn, and cattle-dipping vat that reflect the changing nature of commercial agriculture. Taken as a whole, the Dudley Farm is a nationally significant example of the agricultural changes that affected owner-operators in the South in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century.

¹⁰⁸ Walker and Cobb, *New Encyclopedia*, Vol. 11, pp. 36, 53, 65; Fite, *Cotton Fields No More*, pp. 183-204, 207-208; Daniel, *Breaking the Land*, pp. 239-252, 256-263; Kirby, *Rural Worlds Lost*, pp. 343-347.

¹⁰⁹ Pickard, p. 73. As a result, Ralph Dudley was able to raise tobacco until his death in 1967.

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6. PROPERTY DESCRIPTION AND STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY

Ownership of Property

Private:
Public-Local:
Public-State: X
Public-Federal:

Category of Property

Building(s):
District: X
Site:
Structure:
Object:

Number of Resources within Boundary of Property:

Contributing

Buildings: 20
Sites: 2
Structures: 11
Objects: 3
Total: 36

Noncontributing

Buildings:
Sites: 1
Structures:
Objects:
Total: 1

PROVIDE PRESENT AND PAST PHYSICAL DESCRIPTIONS OF PROPERTY

(Please see specific guidance for type of resource[s] being nominated)

Summary Description

The Dudley Farm National Historic Landmark District is located in north central Florida, approximately twelve miles west of Gainesville. The district lies within Dudley Farm Historic State Park, which opened in 2001 under the management of the Florida Park Service. The district encompasses 240 acres of the original 280-acre farm operated by three generations of the Dudley family. The section of the district that most clearly reflects the period of significance (1881-1945) is an L-shaped area in the southeast corner of the historic farm. Containing approximately 95 acres, this area comprises fields, pastures, roads, buildings, and structures that reflect the farm's appearance during the period of significance. The remainder of the farm consists of former fields and pastures that are now forested.

The farm complex occupies 6.5 acres at the southern edge of the farm and includes a dwelling, as well as nineteen buildings and eight structures related to agriculture and domestic life. All were constructed between 1882 and 1940, and nearly all are wood frame buildings. In many of these buildings, the exterior siding provides structural support for the wall framing, which consists of corner posts and widely spaced wood studs. The sole non-contributing resource on the property is an archeological site with limited potential to yield information.

Dudley Farm currently functions as a historic site and working farm that is open to the public. Starting in the 1980s, the Florida Park Service restored buildings and structures that had been altered or were in disrepair, and re-established historic fields and pastures. As a result, Dudley Farm retains a high level of integrity as a collection of resources illustrating a family farm in the U.S. South in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

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Location and Setting

Dudley Farm is located in western Alachua County in north central Florida (Figures 2 and 3). The park lies on the north side of State Route 26 (West Newberry Road), approximately four miles east of Newberry and twelve miles west of Gainesville, the largest city in Alachua County. The area surrounding the park consists primarily of farms and timber land, interspersed with small enclaves of suburban-style housing.

The nominated area encompasses approximately 240 acres within Dudley Farm Historic State Park, including ten acres surrounding historic Old Jonesville Road (#3), which leads south from the farm to State Route 26.¹¹⁰ The park visitor center and other park support facilities are located south of the nominated area on Florida Park Service land, which was not historically owned by the Dudley family. The agricultural fields and forests in this part of the park provide a buffer between the historic farm and State Route 26, which is a four-lane highway, and between the historic farm and the non-historic visitor services buildings. The park ranger's house is partially visible from Old Jonesville Road (#3), but trees and shrubs along the road largely screen it from view.

Private residences, fields, and forests border Dudley Farm on the east and west. One of the properties to the east includes a house that belonged to James and Rebecca Perkins, who worked for the Dudleys in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The land immediately to the north was owned by the Dudley family until the 1970s, and is currently forested.

Topography and Soils

Dudley Farm is situated on the South-Central Florida Ridge in the Central Highlands of the Atlantic Coastal Plain (Figures 2 and 3), a region characterized by a karst limestone geologic formation, aquifers, caves, and sinkholes. In this section of the Florida peninsula, the Floridan aquifer system provides a reliable underground water source, with potable water located between 50 and 200 meters beneath the surface.¹¹¹ Five documented caves, some with entrances over thirty feet deep, are located within the NHL boundary. Two caves are in the eastern third of the property, in a wooded area between two agricultural fields. The other three caves lie in wooded areas in the western third of the property. The cave complexes include networks of tunnels, large and small rooms, and narrow crawl spaces; some are partially underwater during wet seasons.¹¹² Two sinkholes are located south of the farm complex, one on either side of Old Jonesville Road. Both sinkholes are dry, but are reported to have been ponds in the nineteenth century and were used to water livestock. Another sinkhole that historically served as a water source is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Old Jonesville Road and State Route 26, but is outside the nominated area (Figure 4). The terrain, soil, geology, and hydrology are important factors contributing to the success of the Dudleys' agricultural enterprise, and help explain the farm's spatial arrangements, particularly the location of fields and pastures.

The low, gentle hills of Dudley Farm are typical of western Alachua County, which is described on early maps as "high rolling pine lands." The soil is well-drained, permeable at the surface, sandy to a depth of 20 to 80 inches, and loamy below that; organic matter is typically low to moderately low.¹¹³ The soil within the property is more well-suited to agricultural cultivation than the soil in many other areas of Alachua County, but less

¹¹⁰ Numbers in parentheses refer to the number that is used to identify individual resources in the inventory and on the site plans.

¹¹¹ Edward A. Fernald and Elizabeth D. Purdum, eds., *Atlas of Florida* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1992), p. 60; "Dudley Farm Historic State Park Unit Management Plan" (State of Florida, Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks, September 2004), pp. 9-11, 13.

¹¹² Albert A. Krause, "The Dudley Farm Caves" *Florida Speleologist* 27 (Spring 1990): 4-10. The other caves documented in this report lie outside the NHL boundary.

¹¹³ "Dudley Farm Historic State Park Unit Management Plan," p. 11, Appendix 3.

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productive than other parts of the southeastern United States, such as the river valleys or the Black Belt region, a swath of fertile land between the coastal plain and the mountains.¹¹⁴

Dudley Farm Landscape (#1)

Starting in the 1850s, three generations of Dudleys shaped what was likely a longleaf pine forest with wiregrass understory into a rural landscape whose defining features are its circulation patterns, the 1850s homestead site, the 1880s farm complex, and fields. Topography, property boundaries, and natural features such as caves and sinkholes influenced the spatial arrangement of the farm. Public roads and building clusters are concentrated along the southern edge of the property, with fields, pastures, and forests to their north, east, and west. Much of the information about the use and evolution of the farm landscape and of the buildings and structures within it comes from interviews that the Florida Park Service conducted with Myrtle Dudley in the 1980s.

Circulation Patterns

The farm complex sits near the intersection of two nineteenth-century roads at the southern edge of the property (Photo #2)—the old Gainesville Road and the Old Jonesville Road. The Old Gainesville Road (#2; Photos #3-4, 22) was an east-west thoroughfare that ran along the Dudley property boundary. By 1917, State Route 26, located approximately one-quarter of a mile to the south, had supplanted it as the main road heading west from Gainesville. The Old Jonesville Road (#3; Photo #2) led south from Old Gainesville Road to Archer via Jonesville. The portion of Old Jonesville Road that extends from the farm to State Route 26 is included in the historic district and functioned as a driveway leading to the farm, after Old Gainesville Road fell into disuse. Currently, it functions as a driveway leading to the park ranger's house and the collections storage building.

An 1882 plat (Figure 1) of the Dudley property indicates that a road to Newnansville, which was the county seat from 1828 to 1854, cut across the southeast corner of the Dudley property. However, this road was abandoned as Newnansville declined in the late nineteenth century and is not clearly visible in the landscape.

Several historic roads remain within the farm, connecting the buildings, fields, and forests. A tree-lined road along the farm complex's western edge begins as a fenced lane and continues beyond the farm complex as a farm road (Photos #5, 17). The southern portion was likely present by 1860 as the road leading to the P. B. H. and Mary Dudley homestead, while the northern portion was present by the early twentieth century, when it provided access to a driveway leading northeast to a house occupied by George Wynne, a younger brother of Fannie Dudley (the house burned before 1986). Another historic farm road runs along the inside of the wire fence that encloses the historic farm. The eastern section of this road dates to the period of significance, as do portions of the northern and western sections.

Roads in the interior of the farm generally followed the fence lines around fields and pastures, though changes in vegetation have shifted the routes. Most of the roads in the northwest portion of the property are logging roads that were laid out in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. These roads are generally two-track roads or grassy paths between forested areas.

¹¹⁴ Currently, much of the soil at Dudley Farm is designated as Class II (Moderate Limitations) in the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Land Capability Classification scale. "Agricultural Capability of Soils (Beta)," accessed November 10, 2016, <http://www.arcgis.com/apps/OnePane/basicviewer/index.html?appid=ff3af737ebb942d99bcf2140a8ec2082>.

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P. B. H. and Mary Dudley Homestead (#36)

The site of P. B. H. and Mary Dudley's 1850s dwelling is located near the southern edge of a partially overgrown field northwest of the farm complex. When P. B. H. and Mary Dudley settled on the property in the mid-1850s, they sited their house on high ground just west of the section line (see Figure 1), which was the Dudleys' eastern property boundary until 1859. Their granddaughter, Myrtle Dudley, remembered the 1850s homestead dwelling as a double-pen, dogtrot house constructed of logs. The house was demolished in the early or mid-twentieth century.¹¹⁵ The only remaining above-ground structure from the original Dudley homestead is a well (#35). (See "Archeological Sites," below.)

Farm Complex

In the early 1880s, Ben and Fannie Dudley shifted the nucleus of the farm to its present location southeast of the original Dudley homestead. Although not on high ground, the new farm site was close to the major roads through the property and is oriented towards Old Gainesville Road (#2). The farm complex is bounded on the south by Old Gainesville Road, on the west by the western edge of a fenced lane, and on the east by a two-track dirt road, and on the north by a tree line and fences.

Pastures, former gardens, and orchards line the northern and eastern edges of the farm complex. In the southeastern corner is a one-acre field that historically functioned as a vegetable garden and orchard. A grove of fruit and nut trees is located at the northeastern corner of the farm complex, and a pasture occupies the northwestern corner.

The domestic and agricultural buildings and structures are clustered in the southwestern part of the farm complex. Outbuildings are generally arrayed to the north and west of the 1882 main house (#4), which stands just south of the complex's center and faces south towards the intersection of Old Gainesville Road (#2) and Old Jonesville Road (#3). A dirt driveway leading into the farm complex is located to the west of the house. (See Photos #1 and 20.) The driveway gradually shades into a two-track road, then a grassy lane before fading just north of the house. Most of the area within the farm complex is open and grassy, with scattered trees and shrubs (Photos #5, 10, 12-14, 18-21). Ornamental trees and shrubs include dogwoods, palm trees, magnolias, and camellias. Hardwoods and pine trees are also present, especially along the fence lines.

In front of the house is a fenced flower garden that was created by Fannie Dudley in the 1880s and is enclosed by a post-and-wire fence (Photos #1, 8; Figures 6 and 7.) A swept-earth path bisects the garden, extending from the front porch of the house to a wood gate that is centered in the south fence line. Several historic flower beds near the house and along the central path are defined by stones laid on the ground, while most of the other beds are lined with wood. The arrangement of the paths and beds is asymmetrical, and most paths run in an east-west or north-south direction. Historic photographs indicate that Fannie Dudley and later, her daughters, re-arranged and added to the flower beds and paths several times over the course of the garden's history. Fannie Dudley's garden included lilies and flowering bushes such as camellias, as well as many varieties of roses. Twenty varieties of heritage roses that were identified during the restoration of the garden in the 1990s continue to grow in the garden. In the 1930s, the Dudleys added more varieties of plants, including amaryllis.¹¹⁶ Within the flower garden are two bird baths (#6 and #7), a stone flower pit (#5), pre-cast concrete planters, ceramic planters, and makeshift planters created from buckets and clay pipes. A metal hand pump and several benches consisting of wood planks laid across buckets, cans, or stumps are located within the garden as well.

¹¹⁵ Pickard, pp. 9, 10.

¹¹⁶ Pickard, pp. 66-68, 78; "Dudley Farm Roses" and "Dudley Heirloom Roses," Dudley Farm Historic State Park files, n.d.

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To the north and northeast of the house are resources associated with domestic life, household production, and poultry raising, including a cistern (#8), kitchen/dining room (#9), dairy and canning shed (#11), smokehouse (#10), fenced yards for chickens and turkeys, a brooder house (#12), and one of three chicken houses on the property (#13). (See Photos # 9-10, 12-14.) The circa 1882 kitchen/dining room was moved twice in the twentieth century, but currently stands on its original site directly behind the main house. During the period of significance, a shed for washing clothes was attached to a cotton house that stood to the west of the kitchen/dining room (Figure 7). The cotton house and shed were removed in the 1930s, but the footprint of the cotton house is marked by stones set in the ground (Photo #18) and archeological investigations uncovered artifacts associated with its historic use.

To the northwest of the kitchen, four buildings are arrayed around the mule lot, which is enclosed by a split rail fence (Photos #14-16; Figures 11 and 12.) A horse stable (#19), a corn crib (#20), and a milking room/feed room (#18) form the western edge of the mule lot, and the mule stable (#21) forms its northern edge; gates or horizontal boards secure the gaps between the buildings. The gate in the northern edge of the mule lot leads to a pasture that contains the hay barn (#22), a covered trough, and a pecan grove. A grassy area to the east of the mule lot contains the men's outhouse (#16). (The women's outhouse, which is no longer extant, stood near the main house.)

Resources associated with supplying water to the farm are situated roughly in the center of the farm complex. A well (#17) is located in close proximity to both the mule lot and the kitchen/dining room (Photo #18). A metal hand pump stands to the west of the well; a wood and metal trough connects the hand pump with a watering trough located just inside the southern fence of the mule lot. From the 1920s until the late 1970s, a water tower stood northwest of the well; only the tower's concrete footers remain.

A pump house (#23), cane mill (#24), cane syrup house (#25), sweet potato cellar (#26), and a former store (#27) that was moved to this location circa 1915 are arranged roughly in a north-south line along the west side of the driveway leading into the farm complex (Photos #18-21). To the northwest of the store are a chicken yard and the largest of the chicken coops (#14) at Dudley Farm. Until the 1940s, a buggy barn stood to the north of this chicken coop; the kitchen/dining room was placed in this location in 1952 and remained there until it was returned to its original site in 2002.

The southwest corner of the farm complex contains a tobacco barn (#28), a non-historic vegetable garden, a chicken coop (#15), and a cattle dipping vat (#29). (See Photos #21-22.) The chicken coop stands in the northwest corner of the vegetable garden, suggesting that this area once functioned as a chicken yard.¹¹⁷ The cattle dipping vat occupies the southern end of the fenced lane along the western edge of the farm complex.

The Dudley family cultivated fruit and nut trees and grew scuppernongs (#31-34) in the area in and around the farm complex. Pecan, pear, peach, fig, and banana trees are scattered about the area behind and to the east of the main house, and the farm complex contains four scuppernong arbors (#31-31; Photos #20-21).

Fields and Pastures

Historic fields and pastures remain along the southern and eastern borders of the nominated area, in the vicinity of the farm complex, which lies near the north-south line separating Sections 31 and 32 of the section-township-range grid. Corn and sugar cane are grown in the east field, while the other cleared areas function as pastures.

¹¹⁷ The field where the vegetable garden is located was present in its current configuration during the early twentieth century, but there is no documentation that the Dudleys grew vegetables here.

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The former fields and pastures in the northwest part of the property and along the western border are now forested but changes in the age and density of the vegetation reflect the historic field arrangements.

Currently and historically, the fields of the Dudley Farm are mostly rectangular with lines paralleling the section lines, though the topography and natural features such as caves and sinkholes create some irregular boundaries. For instance, the dividing line between the two pastures along the eastern edge of the property follows the quarter-section boundary, but the presence of cave entrances along this line results in an irregularly shaped border (Photo #6).

Field divisions are generally marked by fences or tree lines. Post-and-wire fences are the most common type, but post-and-rail and split rail fences are present as well. Fragments of split rail and wire fences remain within the overgrown fields in the west and northwest portion of the property (Photo #7). Typical trees along field divisions and farm roads are mature native oak, cedar, pecan, and pine trees.

General Description of Buildings

With the exception of the stone flower pit (#5), all of the buildings at Dudley Farm are of wood frame construction. The buildings are lightly framed, with a minimal number of studs between the corner posts; the exterior siding stabilizes the walls. In smaller buildings such as the men's outhouse (#16) and the smokehouse (#10), there are no intermediate studs in one or more walls. Two of the largest buildings – the main house (#4) and the packhouse/store (#27) – have small down braces at the corners. A few buildings have hewn sills, but most of the lumber is sawn. The Dudleys used locally available limestone to construct the stone flower pit as well as the foundations for the frame buildings. The main house (#4) rests on piers, while the outbuildings are supported by continuous stone foundations, some of which are not mortared.

Most of the buildings have board-and-batten or vertical board siding and gable or saltbox roofs. The buildings constructed before circa 1920 originally had hand-split, wood shingles. Between 1915 and 1920, the Dudleys replaced the wood shingles on most of the buildings with metal roofing. Currently, the reconstructed roof on the sweet potato cellar (#26) and the roof of the dairy cabinet (#11) are the only shingled roofs at the farm; all other roofs are metal.

The buildings of Dudley Farm – including the main house – display only a few features that reflect popular architectural forms and styles. The dormer on the main house (#4), which has paired windows set under a hipped roof, takes a form commonly found on early twentieth-century houses built in the Colonial Revival or Craftsman styles. Ornamental elements on the house include the 1930s wood-and-glass front door, the paneled interior doors, and the pediment above the door to the southwest room.

Archeological Resources (#30 and #36)

Two documented archeological sites, one of which contributes to the National Historic Landmark historic district, are associated with the farm and lie within the district boundary. The contributing archeological site (#30) has been documented as FMSF #8AL2328 and encompasses the farm complex established by Ben and Fannie Dudley in the 1880s. Archeological investigations conducted in this area uncovered evidence of historic circulation patterns, building use, agricultural practices, and household production. The site associated with P. B. H. and Mary Dudley's 1850s homestead (#36, FMSF #8AL4828) is non-contributing because archeological investigations revealed little potential to uncover additional information. Archeological investigations have thus far been unable to locate evidence of the slave dwellings that Myrtle Dudley remembered being on the

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property.¹¹⁸

Evaluation of Integrity

Dudley Farm contains a remarkably intact collection of buildings and landscape features that illustrate life on a family farm in the southeastern United States between 1880 and 1945. The National Historic Landmark boundary encompasses most of the land associated with Dudley Farm during the period of significance (1881-1945); the only loss is a 120-acre tract to the north.¹¹⁹ Despite changes in vegetation, the historic field patterns remain visible in the landscape. Since acquiring the property in the early 1980s, the Florida Park Service has followed the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation* in its approach to repairing and maintaining the buildings, structures, and landscape, and has kept modern park facilities and visitor amenities out of the historic area. Consequently, the collection of resources at Dudley Farm possesses a high level of integrity, especially when considered in comparison with similar properties, many of which have lost substantial amounts of acreage and built resources.

The survival of so many buildings and structures is exceptional given the fragility of the lightly framed, unpainted outbuildings that were common on farms of this type. Neglected for at least a decade before the Florida Park Service began work on the property in the 1980s, the buildings were vulnerable to rot, insect damage, and structural instability. Under the Florida Park Service's care, deteriorated wood siding, framing members, and stone foundations have been patched, repaired, or replaced. The Florida Park Service documented all repairs to the buildings and structures, and the Florida State Historic Preservation Office reviewed major repair projects. When repairing and maintaining the buildings and structures, park managers retained original materials whenever possible, preserved or replicated historic construction methods, and selected replacement materials to match the existing.

Restoration efforts have created minor temporal inconsistencies within the farm complex, but these do not substantially detract from the integrity of the collection of resources at Dudley Farm. In 2002, after conducting archeological investigations and reviewing historic photographs, the Florida Park Service moved the kitchen/dining room (#9) to the site where it stood from 1882 to circa 1935. However, there are several extant buildings that were constructed sometime between 1930 and 1940 and thus may not have been present when the kitchen/dining room stood in its original (and present) location. Using architectural evidence, historic photographs, and information gathered from interviews with Myrtle Dudley, the Florida Park Service has restored the house (#4) to its appearance during the period between roughly 1910 and 1935. The restoration exposed the board-and-batten siding on the side elevations, reflecting the appearance of the house prior to circa 1920. However, at that time, both the main roof and the roof of the front porch had wood shingles; the Dudleys added metal roofs such as the ones currently in place after 1930. In the context of a collection of over thirty contributing buildings and structures, these inconsistencies have a negligible effect on the overall integrity of Dudley Farm.

Most of the buildings and structures that were present during the period of significance remain on the property, and there are few non-historic additions. Two buildings were removed prior to the end of the period of significance: the cotton house with attached shed/wash house and a log corn crib. Only five resources have been lost since 1945: the P. B. H. and Mary Dudley homestead, a circa 1930 water tower, the women's outhouse, the

¹¹⁸ Martin F. Dickinson and Lucy B. Wayne, *Buggy Barns to Smokehouses: Archaeology at Dudley Farm State Historic Site, Alachua County, Florida* (prepared for Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection, O'Leno State Park, Gainesville, Fla.: SouthArc, Inc., February 2002), pp. 175-177; Pickard, pp. 9-10.

¹¹⁹ Ben Dudley purchased 80 additional acres in 1902, bringing the size of the farm to 360 acres. Eighty of the 120 acres sold in 1971 were part of the land that Ben Dudley acquired from his father in 1881; Ben Dudley purchased the other forty acres in 1902.

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buggy barn, and a house occupied by Fannie Dudley's brother, George Wynne. The foundation of the water tower remains to indicate its place in the landscape, and stones set in the ground mark the footprint of the cotton house. Non-historic additions within the property are limited to a shed attached to the pump house (#23), a wheelchair lift to the main house that is located at the rear corner of the house, and a trellis to hide the wheelchair lift.

Inventory of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources

1. Landscape, c. 1855-present Site Contributing

Photos #5-8, 10, 14, 19-22; Figures 1, 4, 7, and 9; HABS FL-565, Sheet 1

See detailed description above (pp. 28-31).

2. Old Gainesville Road/Farm Road, c. 1870 Structure Contributing

Photos #2-4, 22; Figure 1

The contributing portion of the historic road that runs along the southern border of Dudley Farm extends from the southeast corner of the property to the path to the visitors' center. Between the southeast corner of the property and the intersection with Old Jonesville Road, it is a well-defined dirt road. Between Old Jonesville Road and the path to the visitors' center, the road is partially overgrown with grass, but the route remains visible. Beyond the path to the visitors' center, the road bed is evident only through differences in vegetation.

An 1882 plat indicates that the portion of this road that lies west of the intersection with Old Jonesville Road was a public road at that time; Old Jonesville Road connected it to a road to the south that led east towards Gainesville. This segment of the road became a private farm road in the late 1910s or early 1920s following the construction of State Route 26 to the south. The road segment leading east from Dudley Farm was likely a farm road and was present by the 1930s.

3. Old Jonesville Road, late 1850s Structure Contributing

Photo #2; Figure 1

Within the historic district, Old Jonesville Road is a well-defined road that runs south-southwest from the farm complex to State Route 26. The northern half is a single-track, dirt and limestone road, while the southern half is a two-track, dirt and limestone road, lined with dense, mature vegetation that reflects historical vegetation patterns. A wire fence runs along the eastern side of the road.

4. Main House, 1882 Building Contributing

Photos #1, 8-10, 14, 24-26; Figures 6-9, HABS FL-565, Sheets 1-7

The frame, one-and-a-half-story, side-gable dwelling has a symmetrical, three-bay façade, rests on limestone piers, and is clad in board-and-batten siding. Standing-seam metal covers the steeply pitched roof, and a hipped-roofed dormer is centered in the front roof slope. A one-bay porch on the south elevation shelters the centered front door, and a full-width porch extends across the rear (north) elevation. All windows are six-over-six, wood sash. The house has a center-hall, double-pile plan, and two rooms upstairs. All of the rooms are furnished with original Dudley family furniture and domestic objects.

Exterior

Each wall of the house rests on four to five random-rubble, mortared limestone piers that are wide and irregularly shaped. Additional piers are located beneath the house to support the girders and interior

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walls.¹²⁰ The building is lightly framed, with widely spaced (every five to six feet) wood studs stabilized by small down-braces and by the exterior, board-and-batten siding.¹²¹ Several areas of the board and batten siding have been replaced as a result of deterioration. A single, interior chimney rises through the roof peak in the eastern third of the building. At each end of the roof are lightning rods that were installed prior to 1930.

Three concrete steps lead up to the front porch, which has chamfered wood posts, a hipped roof, and a solid, limestone foundation under its south edge. The rear porch is supported by limestone piers, and has wood steps. A wood gutter along the porch's north roofline drains into the cistern. A metal wheelchair lift is attached to the east side of the rear porch. On both the front and rear porches, wooden planks set between the posts form a shelf along the perimeter. Both porches have V-crimp metal roofing and wood plank floors.

The front and rear elevations of the house each have a centered door flanked by a window on each side. On the side elevations, there are two symmetrically placed windows on the first story and a smaller, centered window in the gable. The six-over-six, wood sash windows are set in openings with square-edged wood surrounds. With the exception of the paired dormer windows, all windows have louvered wood shutters.

The main (south) entrance holds a wood door that consists of a single-light upper section and a three-panel lower section. A two-panel, wood, screen door with metal lattice in the lower panel also occupies this door opening. The wood pediment above the door was added when the front porch was restored in 2002. The rear (north) door is hung with strap hinges and is constructed of three vertical boards secured by two horizontal battens and; according to Myrtle Dudley, this door was moved to the house from P. B. H. and Mary Dudley's circa 1855 homestead.¹²² A reproduction, two-panel, wood, screen door is also present in the rear door opening.

Interior

The first floor of the house comprises a central hall flanked by two rooms on each side. The center hall features a board-and-batten ceiling and walls; the lower portion of the north wall has no interior battens below a horizontal beam that is roughly level with the door lintel. The stairs to the second floor run along the west wall; the lowest step extends a few inches across the doorway to the southwest room, reflecting the addition of the stair approximately twenty years after the house was constructed. The straight-run, open-string stair has a square newel post and a railing that consists of vertical posts, a handrail, and another rail below the handrail. Vertical beadboard encloses the area under the stairs, forming a closet that is accessed via a three-panel, wood door at the north end. The wood plank floors run north-south and were installed in the 1930s; the earlier flooring remains inside the under-stairs closet. The doorway to the southwest room features a pedimented lintel; all other doorways from the center hall have square-edged wood surrounds.

The two south rooms functioned as the more public rooms and accordingly have more elaborate interior finishes. The doors leading from the hallway to these rooms are four-panel, wood doors with raised panels and decorative hinge plates. During the decade or so when the house was a dogtrot, the more elaborate lintel on the doorway from the hallway to the southwest room marked it as the room where the Dudley family received visitors. The room's interior features a board ceiling, vertical beadboard walls, square-edged

¹²⁰ Dorinda Kim Mayhew Blackey, *Towards a Historic Structure Report: Case Study, the Dudley Farmhouse, Newberry, Florida*, 1984, pp. 21-22. Several concrete piers were added before the 1980s to buttress the existing foundation.

¹²¹ *Ibid*, pp. 22-24. The intermediate studs are typically posts associated with the doors or windows.

¹²² Myrtle Dudley and Gordon Garland, interview by Don Yonkers, August 25, 1983, Tape 3A, p. 3, Dudley Farm Archives (DUFA).

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baseboards, and a linoleum floor. Furnishings include two beds, wash stands, and a sewing machine. A quilting frame hangs from ceiling hooks, and can be raised to the ceiling to clear space in the room.¹²³

The southeast room, known as the parlor, has wood plank floors, and its walls and chimney stack are clad in horizontal beadboards; the ceiling and crown molding are beadboard as well. The chimney projects into the room from the north wall. The jambs and header of the mantelpiece are flat wood boards, with shaped wood brackets supporting the mantel shelf. The firebox is parged, and there is a small, flush, stone hearth. The room is furnished with the Dudley family piano, chairs, a desk, and a wood cabinet with glass doors.

The four-panel, wood doors to the two north rooms, which functioned as bedrooms, have flat panels, in contrast to the more elaborate raised-panel doors to the south rooms. The parents' bedroom, located in the northeast corner of the house, shares a chimney with the parlor has a similar mantelpiece, except that the mantel shelf has cut-out corners. The chimney stack is clad in horizontal beadboard, as is the closet to its east. The door to the closet is a three-panel door similar to the one leading to the under stairs closet. A set of open shelves stands within the recessed area to the west of the chimney. The room has a board-and-batten ceiling and wood plank floors. The mid-twentieth-century, wood paneling on the east, north, and west walls was removed in 2001-2002 and was not replaced, exposing the building's wood-frame structure.¹²⁴

Located in the northwest corner of the house, the boys' room has non-historic wood paneling on the walls and ceiling. A layer of newspaper and wood plank flooring are visible through breaks in the linoleum floor. A closet constructed in the 1950s occupies the southeast corner, and a small closet is located in the northeast corner. Two beds, a dresser, and a wardrobe are arranged in the room.

The second floor is divided into two rooms, both with beadboard walls and ceilings and wood plank floors. The larger east room includes the stair opening along the west wall, the dormer window on the south wall, and the parged limestone chimney stack. There is a closet along the north wall of the west room, and an under-eaves closet on the south wall of the east room.

Historical Evolution

The house was originally constructed as a one-story, double-pile dogtrot, with an open breezeway between the east and west rooms. The walls of the central hall are board-and-batten, which is not typically used as an interior wall cladding, and the posts for the doors at each end of the central hall rest on the floors, not the sills.¹²⁵ An 1897 photograph of the building shows that by that time, the house had an enclosed central hall but was only one story tall. Circa 1910, the Dudleys constructed a dormer, finished the upstairs rooms, and added stairs to the central hallway.

In the 1930s, the Dudleys moved the freestanding kitchen/dining room to abut the rear porch of the house in order to provide easier access between the house and the kitchen. In 1952, after the installation of indoor plumbing, they relocated the kitchen to another site on the farm, removed the rear porch, and constructed a rear addition containing a kitchen, dining room, bathroom, and enclosed porch. Also in the 1950s, the hipped-roofed front porch that was present during the period of significance was replaced with a shed-roofed porch. In 2000, the Florida Park Service removed the shed-roofed front porch and built a new front porch to match the one shown in historic photographs. In 2001-2002, the rear addition was removed, and the rear elevation and the back porch were restored based on architectural evidence and historical

¹²³ Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 3A, p. 1 and Tape 4A, pp. 13-14, DUFA.

¹²⁴ Blackey, p. 31.

¹²⁵ Ibid, p. 27.

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photographs.¹²⁶

The exterior siding was modified several times during and after the period of significance. The earliest photographs of the house show it with unpainted, wood, board-and-batten siding similar to what is currently on the house. In the 1910s and 1920s, narrow, horizontal wood siding was laid over the existing board-and-batten siding on the side elevations. Asbestos shingles were applied to the front elevation in the late 1940s or early 1950s, and the exterior siding on the rear wall was removed in 1952 when the rear addition was constructed. The asbestos shingles on the south elevation and the horizontal siding on the east and west elevations were removed in 2002, and the board-and-batten siding that remained underneath was repaired.

During most of the period of significance, wood shingles covered the house’s main roof, as well as the face and roof of the dormer. In the 1930s, the Dudleys installed standing-seam metal on the main roof and on the dormer, but the front porch roof remained shingled until it was replaced in the 1950s.

The Dudleys replaced the windows on the front elevation with jalousie windows in the 1950s, and the original rear windows were removed when the 1952 addition was constructed. In the 1990s, most of the missing or damaged windows were replaced with matching windows that the Dudleys had placed in storage; where needed, new windows were fabricated to match the originals.¹²⁷

5. Flower Pit, c. 1920 Building Contributing
 Photo #8; HABS FL-565, Sheet 20

Located in the southeast quadrant of the flower garden in front of the house, this stone building was constructed about 1920 to protect delicate plants from cold weather. The foundation and walls are of mortared limestone, and the shed roof is clad in corrugated metal. The building is about three feet high at the north wall and about five feet tall at the south wall, which has a wood-framed door opening and adjacent window opening. The interior walls are whitewashed and the earthen floor is sunk two feet below grade.

6. & 7. Bird Baths, c. 1930 Objects (2) Contributing (2)

Two bird baths stand within in a stone-lined flower bed just west of the central path within the flower garden. One of the bird baths is constructed of cast concrete; the upper portion of the shaft is the size of a large tin food can and has similar indentations. The square top of the bird bath holds a shallow metal bowl. The other birdbath has a rough concrete finish, with concrete pieces that resemble petals hanging down from the circular bath.

8. Cistern, c. 1908 Structure Contributing
 Photos #9-10; HABS FL-565, Sheets 1 and 5

The mortared limestone cistern is circular, and approximately nine feet in diameter. Located near the northeast corner of the house, it is designed to capture and store run-off from the house roof. A metal pipe leads from the eastern end of the gutter for the rear porch to an opening in the cistern’s round wooden cover. Water drawn from the cistern was not potable, and was used for washing clothes and other household tasks.

9. Kitchen/Dining Room, c. 1882 Building Contributing
 Photos #10, 12, 14; Figure 10; HABS FL-565, Sheet 8

¹²⁶ The 1952 addition remains park property and is currently located near the collections building, outside the National Historic Landmark district boundary.

¹²⁷ In the 1950s, a second window was added in the east wall of the northeast room. The second window in the northeast room was removed when the rear addition was demolished.

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The gable-roofed, frame kitchen/dining room was constructed circa 1882 in its present location behind the main house. The Dudleys moved the building twice. Before 1937, they moved it closer to the rear porch of the house, and a small porch was added to allow for direct access to the cistern. When the Dudleys constructed a kitchen and bathroom addition on the main house in 1952, the kitchen/dining room was moved to a spot to the west of the mule lot and used for storing tobacco, hay, and wood. In 2002, the Florida Park Service returned the room building to its original location.¹²⁸

The kitchen/dining room has board-and-batten walls and rests on a continuous limestone foundation that was reconstructed when the building was returned to this location in 2002. Standing-seam metal roofing covers the building's side-gable roof. A small overhang extends over the door on the south elevation, and V-crimp metal covers the shed roof of the full-width porch on the north elevation. Four square posts support the roof of the porch, which rests on limestone piers. Wood planks between the posts provide structural stability and form a shelf. A square, interior chimney rises through the roof peak east of center, and a stone, exterior chimney that was re-constructed in 2002 is centered in the west elevation.¹²⁹ The building has four batten doors with wood screen doors: one on the south elevation, one on the east elevation, and two on the north elevation.

A vertical board partition wall with door opening divides the interior into two rooms: a dining room to the west and a kitchen to the east. The wood framing of the walls and ceiling is exposed in both rooms. The sandstone fireplace on the west wall of the dining room features a wood mantelpiece and brick hearth that were installed in 2002. The three windows to the dining room (two on the west elevation and one on the north elevation) are six-over-six, wood windows with batten shutters. The two window openings in the kitchen are smaller than those in the dining room; each contains a single, six-light wood window that appears to be a six-light window sash turned sideways. A wood-burning stove stands next to the partition wall and is connected to a brick flue that is supported by tie beams that hang from the rafters.

10. Smokehouse, c. 1882 Building Contributing
Photos #12, 14; HABS FL-565, Sheet 19

The twelve-foot-by-fourteen-foot smokehouse is a one-story, front-gabled, wood frame building with board-and-batten siding and a corrugated metal roof. The building stands on unmortared, limestone rubble, and has four hewn log sills. The batten door on the south gable end has two small openings for a chain that was used to secure the door; a wood shelf is attached to the wall to the west of the door. On the interior, three cross beams for suspending meat rest on wooden blocks attached to the east and west walls near the plates. A wooden shelf and a hollowed log trough are located along the west wall. Hickory coals were brought in by bucket and placed in the fire pit in the center of the packed earth floor.¹³⁰

11. Dairy and Canning Shed, c. 1900 Building Contributing
Photos #10-11; HABS FL-565, Sheet 12

Located northeast of the main house and adjacent to the former vegetable garden in the southeast corner of the farm complex, the dairy and canning shed has three components: a canning room, a dairy cabinet, and a dairy shed.

¹²⁸ Archeological investigation undertaken prior to the move determined the exact original location. Martin F. Dickinson and Lucy B. Wayne, "Dudley Farm State Historic Site Kitchen/Porch Relocation Archaeological Study, Alachua County, Florida" (Prepared for Florida Department of Environmental Protection, July 2001), Manuscript #6306.

¹²⁹ The stone used to re-build the chimney was salvaged from the Dudley property. Some of the stone was from George Wynne's house, which stood in the northeast pasture until it burned in the late twentieth century.

¹³⁰ Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 4A, p. 7

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Set on a high, mortared limestone foundation, the gable-roofed canning room was used to store cheese and canned fruits and vegetables. The walls have board-and-batten siding, and the roof is clad in V-crimp metal. A door in the south wall provides access to the interior, which has a dirt floor and shelving along two of the interior walls.

The canning room's gable roof extends beyond its south wall to form the dairy shed. The south end of the shed's roof is supported by square posts set atop limestone piers. This area has a concrete floor, and was used to shelter butter-churning, egg-sorting, and related activities. The dairy shed was also used for laundry after the wash house, which stood northwest of the main house, was demolished.

The dairy cabinet is located immediately to the south of the canning room and is elevated off the concrete floor by four tapered, wood piers capped with metal sheeting. The rectangular cabinet has vertical board siding and its own wood-shingle, shed roof. The interior has a wood bottom and shelves. The shade provided by the metal roof of the dairy shed, combined with the air circulating around the cabinet, helped to keep milk, butter, and eggs cool.

12. Brooder House, c. 1930 Building Contributing
Photos #13-14; HABS FL-565, Sheet 9

The brooder house is situated at the western edge of a fenced chicken yard in the northeastern corner of the farm complex. The wood frame building has a continuous limestone foundation, a mix of vertical board and board-and-batten siding, and a saltbox roof. Designed to protect chicks in cold weather, the ten-foot-by-twelve-foot building could be heated; a stovepipe vent protrudes from the north slope of the V-crimp metal roof. A gate leading into the chicken yard intersects the middle of the south elevation, and a door in the east elevation leads to the chicken yard. The east, west, and south elevations each have openings covered with chicken wire. The interior has a concrete floor, whitewashed walls, wood roost bars, and wood nest boxes.

13.-15. Chicken Coops, 1930-1940 Buildings (3) Contributing (3)
Photos #13 and 19

The three chicken coops at Dudley Farm have vertical board siding and continuous limestone foundations. All window openings are covered with chicken wire, and doors typically consist of widely spaced boards nailed to battens. The interiors have concrete floors, whitewashed walls, and wood roost bars. Each building opens into a chicken yard enclosed by a wire fence.

13. East Chicken Coop (Photo #13; HABS FL-565, Sheet 9)

The east chicken coop stands at the northern edge of a chicken yard in the northeast corner of the farm complex, and faces south. The building has a saltbox roof covered in V-crimp metal. On the south elevation, there is a door and a narrow window opening near the roofline that stretches almost the full width of the elevation. A smaller window opening is situated near the gable peak on the east elevation.

14. West Chicken Coop (HABS FL-565, Sheet 10 [Chicken Coop No. 2])

The largest chicken coop, located to the west of the store building, accommodated 150 to 200 laying hens. The building has a corrugated metal, saltbox roof and a mix of vertical board and board-and-batten siding. Three doors in the east elevation open into the chicken yard; the center door has a chicken door set within it. Long, narrow window openings occupy the space between the doors; a similar window is located in the south wall. The interior is divided into two rooms; the north room is currently used for storage.

15. Small Chicken Coop (Photo #19; HABS FL-565, Sheet 10 [Chicken Coop No. 3])

The smallest of the three chicken coops stands at the northwestern corner of the vegetable garden. The shed

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roof is clad in corrugated metal. A door is situated at the eastern end of the south elevation, and window openings are located on the south and east elevations.

16. Men's Outhouse, c. 1900 Building Contributing

Photo #14; HABS FL-565, Sheet 20

The men's outhouse originally stood approximately fifty feet to the north of its present location northeast of the smokehouse.¹³¹ The five-foot-by-seven-foot, three-holer outhouse has vertical board siding, a side-gable, V-crimp metal roof, and a batten door on the west elevation. The continuous foundation is unmortared limestone. The building has no wall framing: the siding is nailed to the sills supporting the wood floor, and the plates are nailed directly to the plank walls. One of the three seats is sized for a child.

17. Well, c. 1890 Structure Contributing

Photo #18

Located northwest of the house, this well was dug before 1900 and was used for human consumption until 1910. The well is fifty-six feet deep and lined with rock; an inscription on the concrete top of the well reads: "July 26, 1912 P. B. H. Dudley," reflecting the date that Dudley laid the concrete. A non-historic, square wood frame fits over the well, with a small lidded hole in the center for lowering a bucket into the well. A metal pulley for the bucket hangs from a horizontal log supported by poles on either side of the well cover.

18. Milking Room/Feed Room, c. 1930 Building Contributing

Photo #15; HABS FL-565, Sheet 14

The milking room/feed room is the southernmost of three buildings along the western edge of the mule lot. The one-story, two-room, frame building has a continuous stone foundation, vertical board siding, and a gable roof clad in corrugated metal. Doors in the east and west elevations provide access to the milking room in the north half of the building, while a batten door in the south gable end leads to the feed room. Window openings covered with chicken wire are present on the east and west walls.

On the interior, a wood partition wall separates the feed room from the milking room. The milking room was built for milking two cows at the same time and has a dirt floor. The feed room has a concrete floor and no windows. Originally used to store feed for cows, the feed room was used to store harnesses and saddles after the buggy barn was demolished circa 1950.

19. Horse Stable, 1904-1905 Building Contributing

Photo #15; Figure 11; HABS FL-565, Sheet 17

This four-stall, gable-roofed stable stands on the west side of the mule lot, between the milking room/feed room and the corn crib. It has a continuous limestone foundation and a corrugated metal roof. The walls consist of widely spaced horizontal siding that is nailed to irregularly spaced wood studs. Four batten doors open into the fenced mule lot to the east. The interior partition walls are constructed of vertical boards.

20. Corn Crib, c. 1905 Building Contributing

Photo #16; Figure 13; HABS FL-565, Sheet 11

Built to store corn, hay, and fodder, this building replaced an earlier log corn crib. Located at the northern end of the west side of the mule lot, the one-story building comprises a gable-roofed corn crib and a shed-roofed hay shed to the south. The exterior walls are clad in board-and-batten siding, and the roofs are V-crimp metal.

¹³¹ Dudley and Garland, interview (1983), Tape 4A, p. 7.

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The corn crib has a batten door on the east elevation, and a window opening with a wood shutter in the west gable. To prevent rodent and insect infestation, the corn crib is double-walled, with tarpaper and a two-inch air space between the exterior wall and the interior plank wall. The ceiling is constructed of wood planks, and the tongue-and-groove wood floor is elevated approximately two feet above the continuous limestone foundation. Vents on the north and south walls connect to troughs on the floor that were used to fumigate the building with poison to kill corn weevils.

The hay shed is accessed via a single door in the east elevation and a double door in the west elevation. It has a wood floor and unfinished walls and ceiling. There is no interior access between the corn crib and the hay shed.

21. Mule Stable, c. 1925 Building Contributing
Photo #16; Figure 12; HABS FL-565, Sheet 18

The ten-foot-by-sixteen-foot stable forms of the northern boundary of the mule lot. A gate to the west of the building connects the mule lot with the pasture to the north. The mule stable has a continuous limestone foundation and widely spaced horizontal wood siding. Six roof joists are notched over the top plate and support sheathing boards and the metal roofing. The interior is undivided. According to Myrtle Dudley, the stable was constructed specially for two Army mules that the family purchased after World War I. Because the mules refused to be separated, Ben Dudley built this single-room stable to house both animals.

22. Hay Barn, 1914 Building Contributing
Photos #16-17; Figure 13; HABS FL-565, Sheet 13

The Dudleys purchased the hay barn from the neighboring Nipper farm, moved it to this location around 1914, and modified it in the 1920s. The two-story, wood frame building stands on a three-foot-high, continuous, mortared stone foundation. The barn is clad in board-and-batten siding and has a corrugated metal roof. The east and west elevations each have a single, centered door on the first floor, as well as a centered hayloft door. A frame partition wall resting on a stone foundation divides the interior into two rooms. The east room, which opens into the pasture, has a concrete floor and its interior walls are clad in wood boards. The west half of the building has a dirt floor and unfinished interior walls. A hatch in the southwest corner of the building leads to the hayloft.

23. Pump House, 1908 Building Contributing
Photo #20; Figure 9; HABS FL-565, Sheet 16

Located southwest of the house and near the fence along Old Gainesville Road, this wood frame building was constructed to shelter a gas-powered water pump. Unmortared, sandstone rubble elevates the wood floor joists off grade. The exterior is clad in board-and-batten siding, and corrugated metal covers the gable roof. The door is located in the south gable end. In 1991, the Florida Park Service made extensive repairs to the building, using original materials as much as possible, and constructed a shed addition on the east elevation to house a modern water pump and motor. A metal hand pump is located to the south of the pump house.

24. Cane Mill, c. 1890 Object Contributing
Photos #19-21; HABS FL-565, Sheet 21

Located to the south of the cane syrup house, the cast iron cane pressing mill was manufactured by the Chattanooga Plow Company. The mill is set on four pine log posts. A tapered pole that extends out from the mill was attached to a mule harness; as the mule circled the mill, the gears turned and ground the cane, which

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was hand-fed into the mill. Juice flowed from the mill through a trough into a barrel.¹³² Directions and precautions for using the mill are embossed onto its sides.

25. Cane Syrup House, c. 1890 Building Contributing
Photos #19, 21; HABS FL-565, Sheet 21

The gable roof of the cane syrup house is supported by pine logs sunk into the ground. The south half of the roof shelters the open area where the cane furnace is located, while the north half forms the roof of a walled room for storing syrup and supplies. Horizontal wood planks enclose the room, which has a hard-packed earth floor. The door, located on the east elevation, is five feet tall.

The stone cane furnace is approximately seventeen feet long, five feet wide, and two feet tall at its east end. A large metal stovepipe rises from its western end, which extends beyond the wall of the cane syrup house; a parged sandstone firewall stands between the stovepipe and the roof of the cane syrup house. Two metal vats, each with a capacity of sixty gallons, are set within the top of the furnace.¹³³ Fuel was fed through an opening in the east wall of the furnace. The furnace was used not only for syrup making, but also for making soap, scalding hogs, and boiling peanuts. The masonry and the stovepipe were repaired in 1991.

26. Sweet Potato Cellar, pre-1900 Building Contributing
Photos #19, 21

Located south of the packhouse/store, the sweet potato cellar was built before 1900 and used until 1940 to store sweet potatoes between layers of pine straw. The ten-foot-by-twelve-foot cellar is constructed of mortared stone walls that extend approximately one foot above grade and approximately three feet below grade. The original roof was missing by the early 1980s, when the Florida Park Service acquired the property. The current wood frame roof was constructed in 2002 based on family members' descriptions of the building. The front-gabled, wood-shingled roof rises six feet above ground level at the peak. Its gable ends are clad in horizontal board siding, and a wood door on the east elevation opens inward.

27. Packhouse/Store, c. 1890, moved 1914-1916 Building Contributing
Photos #18-19; HABS FL-565, Sheet 15

This one-story, wood frame building stands southwest of the mule lot and faces east. The building comprises a front-gabled main block that was built circa 1890 as a store, and a 1918 garage addition. The gable-roofed store originally stood on the north side of Old Gainesville Road, approximately 200 feet to the south of its present location. After closing the store circa 1915, the Dudleys moved the building to this location and began using it for storage.

The former store has a corrugated metal roof and board-and-batten siding, and sits on a continuous foundation of unmortared limestone rubble. The frame walls are constructed using a combination of modified braced frame and balloon frame construction. Three flat stones form the steps to the centered, batten door in the east elevation; there are no openings on the north and west elevations. The interior has wood floors and unfinished walls and ceiling. The building is currently furnished as a store and post office, based on historical research on similar crossroads stores of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

¹³² David Reddy, "Material and Cultural Investigation of the Sugar Cane Grinding Complex: The Dudley Farm, Jonesville, Florida" (Prepared for the Bureau of Florida Folklife, February 1, 1990). Reddy's study was undertaken before the sugar cane complex, which had gone unused for decades, was restored.

¹³³ One of the vats was manufactured by the Chattanooga Plow Company and the other by Columbus (Ga.) Iron Works.

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Double batten doors in the south wall of the store lead to the shed-roofed garage addition that was constructed a few years after the building was moved to this location and around the same time that Ben Dudley purchased a Model T Ford. The garage has vertical board siding, a corrugated metal roof, and double, Z-pattern doors in its east wall. A four-light, fixed, wood window with a sliding wood cover on the interior is located in the south elevation. The shed has a dirt floor and currently functions as a small workshop with shelves for tool storage.

28. Tobacco Barn, c. 1930 Building Contributing
 Photos #20, 22; HABS FL-565, Sheet 22

The tobacco barn stands at the southwest corner of the farm complex, next to Old Gainesville Road and at the southern edge of the non-historic vegetable garden. Built to cure bright tobacco, the wood frame building is sheathed with double-walled vertical board siding with tarpaper between the interior and exterior walls. The walls rest on a continuous, mortared, limestone foundation that rises approximately three feet above ground level. The gable roof is clad in V-crimp metal. An open shed on the south elevation is supported by three log poles set in concrete.

The double doors on the south elevation are composed of two layers of wood. The inner layer is constructed of horizontal boards and fits inside the door frame; the vertical board outer layer extends over the threshold to form a tight seal. Vents with wood doors are located in the foundation walls and in the east and west gables; another vent is centered in the roof peak. These vents aided with controlling the interior temperature while the tobacco was curing. The masonry furnace is located at the base of the building's east wall. On the interior, three columns of six poles used to suspend tobacco leaves run north to south up to the ceiling.

29. Cattle Dipping Vat, c. 1920 Structure Contributing
 Photo #23; Figure 5

Located at the southern end of the fenced lane at the western edge of the farm complex, the dipping vat is a three-foot wide, twenty-four-foot long, concrete-walled trench that was used to dip cattle in a creosote solution to kill cattle ticks. The cattle were herded through a chute with a concrete floor to the southern end of the dip vat; a portion of the concrete floor of the chute remains, but the chute has been removed. At the southern end of the vat, there is a two-foot slide before a straight drop into the 6'6" deep vat. After being forced into the vat, cattle swam to the north end, where they exited via a concrete ramp to a sloping concrete drain pad. Roots from trees along the western edge of the vat have led to cracks in the west wall of the vat and in the concrete drain pad. To the west, south, and north of the vat is a maze of post-and-rail fences and remnants of metal squeeze chutes.

30. Dudley Farm State Historic Site Archeological Site (FMSF #8AL2328) Site Contributing

The contributing archeological site consists of the farm complex and represents a portion of a 23.8-acre archeological site recorded in the Florida Master Site File (FMSF) as #8AL2328. Archeologists evaluated the archeological resources within the farm in 2001-2002 using metal detection in selected areas, followed by excavation in areas that yielded positive results for metal.

One purpose of the investigations was to locate missing buildings and structures. Although the archeologists did not find evidence of the buildings themselves, they did find artifacts associated with the historical use of the buggy barn, the women's outhouse, and the cotton/wash house in the locations where these buildings were located. The archeologists also recovered artifacts associated with the activities in extant buildings, such as animal bone fragments at the smokehouse, pieces of canning jars at the dairy/canning shed, bottle glass at the cane syrup complex, agricultural equipment and hand tools near the current location of store/packhouse, and

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tobacco tins at the original store location. Ceramics, glass, cans, canning-related artifacts, and clothing fasteners recovered from the site shed light on the Dudleys' consumer habits and the changing balance between purchasing goods and producing them at home. Evidence of limestone paths within the farm complex was uncovered as well; these paths have the potential to reveal information about work patterns and internal circulation networks within the farm.¹³⁴

31.-34. Scuppernong Arbors Structures (4) Contributing (4)
 Photos #20-12

First constructed prior to 1900, these four arbors supported red and white scuppernong grape vines. The arbors are constructed of notched heart pine posts set in the ground every six or eight feet, with wood sills and cross pieces laid on top of the posts. Two of the arbors have metal supports. Over the years, the framework of the arbors has been replaced, but the original configuration has been retained.

35. Old Well, c. 1855 Structure Contributing

This well is located west of the farm lane that marks the western edge of the farm complex and is the only remaining resource associated with the P. B. H. and Mary Dudley homestead. Surrounded by several cedar trees, the well is fifty-six feet deep and rock-lined. Pick marks are evident in the layer of limestone within the well.

36. Dudley Homestead Archeological Site (FMSF #8AL4828) Site Non-Contributing
 Figure 1

Located west of the 1880s farm complex, the Dudley Homestead Archeological Site encompasses the area surrounding the old well and the probable location of the log, dogtrot house constructed for P. B. H. and Mary Dudley in the mid-1850s. A 2001-2002 archeological survey using metal detectors and shovel tests pits uncovered a large number of nails immediately to the south of the well, indicating a possible structure or building nearby. However, in their report on these investigations, archeologists Martin Dickinson and Lucy Wayne noted "that the long agricultural use of this pasture has resulted in a very hard packed, thin plowzone which has left little or nothing in the way of archaeological features" around the well. Investigations of the area around the house site uncovered artifacts consistent with mid-nineteenth-century occupation, but the density of the artifacts was low and no evidence of the 1850s dwelling was located. Dickinson and Wayne offer several possible explanations for the absence of archaeological evidence of the house: the Dudleys' propensity to re-use materials and ground disturbance by rooting pigs during the period when the building was used as a pigpen.¹³⁵

37. Stone Wall, pre-1945 Structure Contributing

An L-shaped stone wall wraps around the north and east sides of the steep slope leading down to the cave entrances between the northeast pasture and the east field. The wall is approximately four feet tall and about four feet wide, with a shallow slope on the side facing away from the cave entrances and a steep slope on the cave side.

¹³⁴ Dickinson and Wayne, *Buggy Barns to Smokehouses*, pp. 178-180.

¹³⁵ Dickinson and Wayne, *Buggy Barns to Smokehouses*, pp. 163-175 (quotation, p. 169).

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Notes on Primary Sources:

Dudley Farm Historic State Park holds an extensive collection of archival material, photographs, artifacts, and oral histories that shed light on the history and operation of Dudley Farm. In addition, the archives contain reports and photographs documenting the changes that the Florida Park Service has made to the buildings and landscapes since the 1980s.

Many historic Alachua County deeds and County Commissioners Minutes are available online at <http://www.alachuaclerk.org/archive/>.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Previously listed in the National Register (fill in 1 through 6 below)
- Not previously listed in the National Register (fill in **only** 4, 5, and 6 below)

- 1. NR #: 02001081
- 2. Date of listing: October 4, 2002
- 3. Level of significance: State, Local
- 4. Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D
- 5. Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A B C D E F G
- 6. Areas of Significance: Agriculture, Architecture

- Previously Determined Eligible for the National Register: Date of determination:
- Designated a National Historic Landmark: Date of designation:
- Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: HABS No. FL-565
- Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: HAER No.
- Recorded by Historic American Landscapes Survey: HALS No.

Location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office:
- Other State Agency: Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks, Dudley Farm Historic State Park
- Federal Agency:
- Local Government:
- University:
- Other (Specify Repository):

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