

## INTERVIEW INFORMATION FORM

(project name) Burroughs Community Survey

Narrator (Informant) Ms. Beulah Campbell, 76 years old

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer: casual encounter, no specific interviewer

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Interview: November 14, 2011

Place of Interview: Chevis Road, Savannah, Georgia

Length of Interview: approximately 20 minutes\_ Number of Cassettes or Discs \_\_\_\_\_

Oral History Donor Form Signed \_\_\_\_\_(Date)

Unrestricted \_\_\_

Restricted \_\_\_

Transcript \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_x\_\_\_ No

Reviewed by Narrator

Yes \_\_\_\_\_(Date) No \_\_\_x\_\_\_

Abstract of Interview:

From the casual interview conducted on Ms. Beulah Campbell the following was learned:

She is the owner of the wood cabin on 886 Chevis Road. That wood cabin has 4 interior spaces; 2 bedrooms, living room and kitchen. Later on a bathroom was added in the back. She informed us that her house was the typical house constricted in African American communities.

Residential construction was done by the community itself. Everyone pitched in with their manual labor and abilities.

There was a club/bar with jukebox in Chevis Road just next to 921 Chevis Road that no longer exist.

The church of St. Bartholomew's was moved to its current location during slavery times. It was previously named Vallambrosia because it was located in Vallambrosia (plantation?)

The two important people in town were Mr. Foster or Faucet and Mr. Zipper. Everyone in town worked for them.

Her mother is buried at Emma Grove cemetery. Her father worked for the railroad.

## INTERVIEW INFORMATION FORM

(project name) Burroughs Community Survey

Narrator (Informant): Ms. Cecilia Dylan

Address: 835 Chevis Road, Savannah, Georgia

Interviewer: Chad Keller and class HIPR 706

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Interview: October 17, 2011

Place of Interview: Mount Olive Baptist Church

Length of Interview: approximately 30 minutes Number of Cassettes or Discs \_\_\_\_\_

Oral History Donor Form Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

Unrestricted \_\_\_\_

Restricted \_\_\_\_

Transcript \_\_\_\_ Yes  No

Reviewed by Narrator

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) No

Abstract of Interview:

The interview to Ms. Cecilia Dylan provided the following information:

There are three churches within the town of Burroughs; New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church, St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church and Mount Olive Baptist church.

Near the railroad tracks was the only store that supplied the town with provisions and groceries. The first owner was Culbert and the second owner Thompson.

The Burroughs community is divided by the railroad tracks.

The next community or town was Grove Point.

When the residential developments started the name was changed from Burroughs to Georgetown.

Burroughs was a town by the 1890's.

Her grandfather was the town sheriff. His name was Steven Gardener.

The town was named in honor of John and Eleanor Burroughs the owners of Wild Heron plantation.

From the railroad tracks east the community was all African American. From the railroad tracks west was a mixed community.

In the railroad tracks was the junction that was comprised of a platform for the exportation of farming goods. The passenger station was north of the junction.

## INTERVIEW INFORMATION FORM

(project name) Burroughs Community Survey

Narrator (Informant): Ms. Lizzie Cutter *56 years old*

Address: 835 Chevis Road, Savannah, Georgia

Interviewer: Kate Stephens

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Interview: November 7, 2011

Place of Interview: Mount Olive Baptist Church

Length of Interview: Approximately 1 hour Number of Cassettes or Discs \_\_\_\_\_

Oral History Donor Form Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

Unrestricted \_\_\_

Restricted \_\_\_

Transcript \_\_\_ Yes  No

Reviewed by Narrator

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) No

Abstract of Interview:

From the interview conducted on Ms. Lizzie Cutter the following was learned:

The town has evolved from an isolated small peaceful town to a big community that is no longer isolated. Now they have more stores and paved streets which have made transportation easier.

All her ancestors had lived in Burroughs, including herself. Born and raised in Burroughs.

Her mother was buried on Wild Heron Cemetery and her grandmother in Grove Point cemetery.

Her great-grandmother was a slave, but she didn't know on what plantation.

Her earliest memory of Burroughs was when she was 9 to 10 years old and all the streets were dirt roads and only one grocery store; Thompson store.

William Faucet was the owner of Wild Heron at the time. He was a powerful man that apparently had political connections with the city.

The town had no police, no council and no government. No health facilities, no fire station.

Her mother assisted to school in Burroughs in the school house next to St Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. When she did not go to school in Burroughs.

The closing down of the train station did not affect the community because the trains did not stopped there anymore.

The name of the road has no relation to the Cheves family that owned Grove Point plantation. Chevis road was originally named Route 4. The county changed the name of the road approximately 30 years ago.

The Thompson store closed after he died. His children still live in the vicinity of the community.

The subdivisions and development of Georgetown commenced in the 1980's and 1990's. Even some of these new houses were built over graves.

The social hall in Chevis road is still in use. Her wedding was celebrated in that building. Spatially, it is an open plan with seats on one side, a piano and an elevated platform. It has a bathroom and a kitchen.

During the weekends they used to go to a club in Grove Point that burned down.

The Episcopal Church has a mixed congregation.

Back in the day the only employment available was to work the fields. She worked in the fields picking cabbage and berries during her youth and later worked in the city.

The sense of community has been maintained in order to save their community from developers.

The houses were wood cabins with no running water or sanitary systems so they had latrines and out houses. There was no electric power only kerosene lamps which presented a fire hazard. When Gertrude Greene began lobbying for Burroughs all the houses were modified to include a bathroom. In 1984 Chevis road and Wild Heron road got paved. She helped construct houses with the Habitat program.

The community still exists because they stuck together and didn't sell their properties to the developers.

The typical house in Burroughs was made of wood with a tin roof. In the yard there would have been chickens, a goat, a cow and a hog.

## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM

Name Mrs. Dylan (Sister Dylan)

Address (home) contact through Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church, 835 Chevis Road, Burroughs, Savannah, Georgia 31419

Address (work) N/A

Telephone (home) not given Telephone (work) not given E-mail not given

Birth Date and Year Unknown

Birth Place Burroughs, Georgia

Occupation N/A, retired

Spouse or Closest Living Relative Unknown

Maiden Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Biographical Information (please include information applicable to the interview):

*Mrs. Dylan is an elderly lifelong resident of the Burroughs community. Her grandfather was at one time the Sheriff of Burroughs when it was an incorporated town. She has many memories of the town and how it changed over the years as it was absorbed by Georgetown. In her early memories, the area was entirely made up of woodland and farmland. In addition there were three churches, the train platform, and a small grocery store between the two sets of railroad tracks.*

Form Filled Out By Kathryn Stephens Date 11/12/2011

## INTERVIEW INFORMATION FORM

Project Name: Burroughs Survey

Narrator (Informant) Mrs. Dylan (Sister Dylan)

Address Chevis Road

Interviewer HIPR 706

Address SCAD Historic Preservation; 439 E. Broad St.; Savannah, GA 31401

Date of Interview 10/17/2011

Place of Interview New Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church

Length of Interview 50 min., 18 sec. Number of Cassettes or Discs 1

Oral History Donor Form Signed N/A (Date)

Unrestricted

Restricted

Transcript  Yes  No

Reviewed by Narrator

Yes  (Date) No

Abstract of Interview:

*This interview with elderly lifelong Burroughs resident Mrs. Dylan was the preliminary introduction to the community. Her early memories of the community assisted in developing the initial survey boundaries as well as historical imagery of the town. Her recollections show a great deal of evolution in the community over the last hundred years. She also pointed the class towards new avenues of research such as Savannah State University and names to look for in various records.*



# BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM

Name Lizzie Cutter

Address (home) 930 Chevis Road

Address (work) Unknown

Telephone (home) not given Telephone (work) not given E-mail not given

Birth Date and Year 1956

Birth Place Burroughs, Savannah, Georgia 31419

Occupation Unknown

Spouse or Closest Living Relative Older sister, children (names unknown)

Maiden Name (if applicable) Unknown

Biographical Information (please include information applicable to the interview):

*Lizzie Cutter is a 56-year-old woman and lifelong resident of the Burroughs community. Her family has lived in the area for at least four generations, including a great-grandmother who was a slave on one of the nearby plantations. Ms. Cutter grew up fairly isolated in this rural area, although she did attend public school outside the community. Her family was by no means wealthy, but they made a living working on nearby farmland owned by Mr. William Fawcett. In addition, they helped to load the train that stopped in town to pick up the corn, potatoes, greens, and beans grown there. Her family supplemented their meager income by growing much of their own food as well as keeping hogs, chickens, a goat, and a cow. The tight-knit community centered around the three nearby churches and was primarily made up of farmland, woodland, and small wood-framed houses. Ms. Cutter and her family still live in Burroughs on the land her mother owned, though the area has mostly been absorbed by the Georgetown neighborhood.*

Form Filled Out By Kathryn Stephens Date 11/12/2011

## INTERVIEW INFORMATION FORM

Project Name: Burroughs Survey

Narrator (Informant) Lizzie Cutter

Address Chevis Road

Interviewer Kathryn Stephens/ HIPR 706

Address SCAD Historic Preservation; 439 E. Broad St.; Savannah, GA 31401

Date of Interview 11/7/2011

Place of Interview New Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church

Length of Interview 1 hour, 4 min., 46 sec. Number of Cassettes or Discs 1

Oral History Donor Form Signed N/A (Date)

Unrestricted

Restricted

Transcript  Yes  No

Reviewed by Narrator

Yes  (Date) No

Abstract of Interview:

*This interview with lifelong Burroughs resident Lizzie Cutter provided insight into life in the community especially in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. She was born in the community in 1956 and has spent all her life there. Her memories show a great deal of development in Burroughs, from the stories she heard about her enslaved great-grandmother, to the changes enacted by Gertrude Green in the 1980s. In addition, her close connections with young and old residents in the area allowed her to express their concerns and desires about the future of Burroughs.*

## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM

Name Beulah Campbell

Address (home) 865 Chevis Road

Address (work) Unknown

Telephone (home) not given Telephone (work) not given E-mail not given

Birth Date and Year 1935

Birth Place Burroughs, Savannah, Georgia 31419

Occupation N/A, retired

Spouse or Closest Living Relative Sharon Watts (?)- works at SCAD

Maiden Name (if applicable) Unknown

Biographical Information (please include information applicable to the interview):

*Beulah Campbell is a 76-year-old woman who has lived in Burroughs nearly all of her life. Her mother also lived all of her life in Burroughs. The house at 886 Chevis Road was her mother's and was built when Ms. Campbell was a small child. As a young girl, she attended school at what is now the Parish Hall of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. Later, she was bused to school in Savannah and graduated from Beach High School in 1953. Like most others, her family worked on the nearby farms and also grew their own food on small plots of land. Her family was more prosperous than many others because her father worked for the railroad. She eventually left Burroughs to live in Philadelphia for 12 years, then returned approximately 10 years ago.*

Form Filled Out By Kathryn Stephens Date 11/12/2011

## INTERVIEW INFORMATION FORM

Project Name: Burroughs Survey

Narrator (Informant) Beulah Campbell

Address 865 Chevis Road

Interviewer HIPR 706

Address SCAD Historic Preservation; 439 E. Broad St.; Savannah, GA 31401

Date of Interview 11/14/2011

Place of Interview 886 Chevis Road (outside)

Length of Interview approx. 15 min. Number of Cassettes or Discs 0

Oral History Donor Form Signed N/A (Date)

Unrestricted X

Restricted \_\_

Transcript \_\_ Yes X No

Reviewed by Narrator

Yes \_\_ (Date) No X

Abstract of Interview:

*This unplanned roadside interview with lifelong Burroughs resident Beulah Campbell provided insight into life in the community from the 1940s to the 1980s. In addition to personal history, she described the local juke joint as well as the tradition of taking the train into Savannah for fun. She discussed the common house types of the area and also living conditions.*