

John Middlebrooks and Millie Sutton of Newton County

Before January of 1823, the John Middlebrooks family had moved to Newton County, from Putnam County, Georgia. The move to Newton County, also included sons, John Jr, David, Isaac S., Zere, daughter Abigail Caroline, who married Batt Stanton. The only son who did not move with the family was Anderson Crawford. He lived in Morgan County, Georgia, until 1830, then moved to Clark County, Georgia. He remained there until his death.

John Middlebrooks purchased land lot 131, First District, before 22 January 1823 on Shoal Creek, tributary of North Fork of Little River. Son, Isaac S. Middlebrooks, witnessed the deed. John lived on his 125 acres (land lot 131) until his death 30 December 1830. In 1831 as part of John's estate settlement the land was sold for \$150, to son David Middlebrooks. John's wife, Millie, died *circa* 1840, Newton County

The Brick Store Community

John Middlebrooks P. O. was the Brick Store, Newton County, two miles from where the family settled (land lot 131) on Shoal Creek, Little River. (See the LL Map.) The Middlebrooks travelled to the Brick Store to get their mail, buy supplies and sell or trade goods. In 1818 the town was given the name of Winton. The town was at the intersection of well, traveled roads and stagecoach routes. This was the first location of a brick building in the county. The Brick Store location was drawn on the 1820 land lottery map, in lot 161 (197). William Deaton sold the land to Martin Robb (Kolb?) on 24 December 1821.

Over the years the Brick Store served as a home, store, courthouse, stagecoach stop, post office, jail, elections, debates, temperance lodge. The building, was first constructed as the residence of Martin Kolb, sometime before 1822. The Brick Store also names the community that grew up around it.

The Brick Store is significant locally in the area of commerce because the building housed a mercantile between 1821 and 1935 and evolved the operation of such enterprises during that period. During the antebellum period, this store was a waypoint for migrants and early white settlers who purchased supplies and used the building as a social gathering place and campsite. Frontier merchants maintained contact with distant wholesalers as well as with local suppliers.

In 1822, the counties first Superior Court was held at the Brick Store. Later a tavern and Inn for stagecoach passengers was built as part of the Brick Store Community. The Brick Store house also served as an early covert of law enforcement.

The Brick Store Community included schools and churches. Three churches were in the Brick Store neighborhood, Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, Harris Spring Primitive Baptist Church and Graves Chapel.

Stagecoach Stop

Brick Store sat along the early roads through Newton County, long before US Hwy 278 crossed the land. When stage coaches traveled the area before the Civil War, Brick Store served as a stop. Passengers could get food or rest at a nearby inn.

Independent Order of Good Templars

In 1879, then-owner Peter P. Knox leased the second floor of Brick Store to the trustees of Brick Store Lodge No. 479 of the Independent Order of Good Templars, a strict temperance organization. The organization was dedicated to abstinence from alcohol, but distinguished itself from other temperance organizations by the fact that it did not exclude women or people of color.

Kidnapping Victim Found at Brick Store

An interesting account of events at Brick Store in 1894 appeared in a later newspaper article. Lovick Rowe, then 15 years old, was in Monroe, Georgia, on a trip to buy supplies with his father. The boy disappeared, and eyewitnesses told the father that someone had put the boy in their wagon and driven off. Lovick's father and the sheriff tracked the wagon to Brick Store where they discovered the boy bound in the wagon. The kidnappers were found in the inn behind Brick Store. Apparently several such incidents occurred in which boys were kidnapped to be sold in the logging camps of middle and south Georgia.

Wagon Maker

During the 1850s and 1860s, owner Isaac H. Parker built a thriving carriage industry around Brick Store. Just a few households away were another carriage maker, a wagon maker, a carpenter, and a chair maker. A blacksmith shop was also part of the Brick Store community.

Sources:

HMdb.org

THE HISTORICALMARKER DATABASE <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=265086>

A History of Newton County, Georgia Pages, 317-340

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 27 Feb 2009

<https://npgallery.nps.gov/GetAsset/a3967448-9f55-4175-a9fa-a5db97addd24/>

Brick Store: Oldest Building in Newton County

On a cold Christmas Eve in 1821, the Georgia Assembly officially formed Newton County. Named in honor of Sargent John Newton, a Revolutionary War soldier, the county was created from parts carved out of Henry, Walton and Jasper counties. The first settlers in the area established homes to the east and created a town they called Winton, Georgia. They began to build homes and a community soon followed. At the center of this burgeoning city, was the Brick Store.

Built in 1821, the Brick Store served as a focus point for Newton County. Built entirely from locally made bricks, the building used architectural details to mimic those found in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. Ben Carter, architect for Carter Watkins Associates, Inc. found that the gutter-like systems and evidence of scaffolding building were not commonly seen in Georgia at the time, but specifically in Williamsburg. The very brick that forms the building was fired in a wood-burning kiln and sealed with linseed oil. And the joints were penciled in by hand and given a lot of attention to detail, all to mimic buildings in New York, explains Carter in this detailed video.

The Brick Store was originally created as a general store and schoolhouse for the citizens of Winton. In fact, the original well and well-house still exist on the property today. Newton County was a leader among school systems, having been the first to transition from a communal drinking bucket to individual dixie cups, as well as implementing the first horse-drawn wagon bus system. The photo shown here was taken of a class outside of Brick Store School in 1912.

The Brick Store then evolved to become a stopping point for major stagecoach routes. The store was the ideal location for this stopping point because of its proximity to old Creek Indian trading paths that had been long established and well known in the area. The community of Winton flourished and was renamed several times as the community grew (we kind of wish they'd kept the name Sun Up, Georgia) and the Brick Store would be revamped as well. Throughout its history the general store would become a post office, a private residence, a school house, a jail, and even a courtroom. In fact, the first session of the Newton County Superior Court was held at the Brick Store on April 15, 1822.

The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places (almost 190 years later) on April 9, 2009. The historic site includes a tablet from 1933 commemorating the Stage Coach Crossroads, a plaque commemorating the building's donation by Charles M. Jordan to the Newton County Historical Society in 1971, and a plaque from the landmarks commission dated 1990.

Today the historic Brick Store – the oldest brick building in Newton County – is all that remains of the site on Highway 278, east of the city of Covington. Though store and the well are the only structures left of the site, the area is appropriately nicknamed Brick Store to perpetuate its name and history

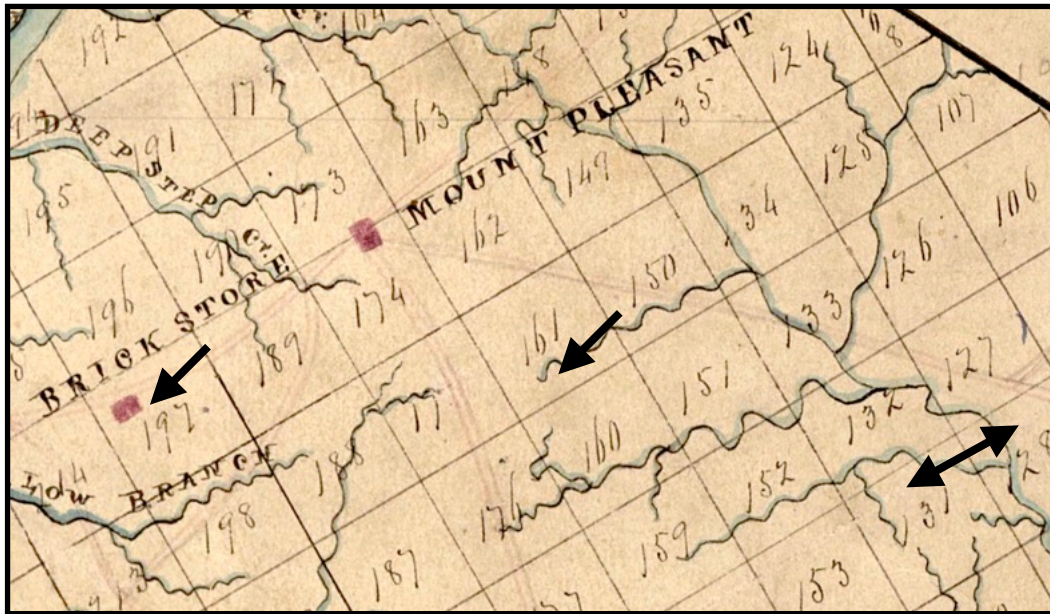
Source: <https://newtonchamber.com/brick-store-oldest-brick-building-in-Newton-County/>



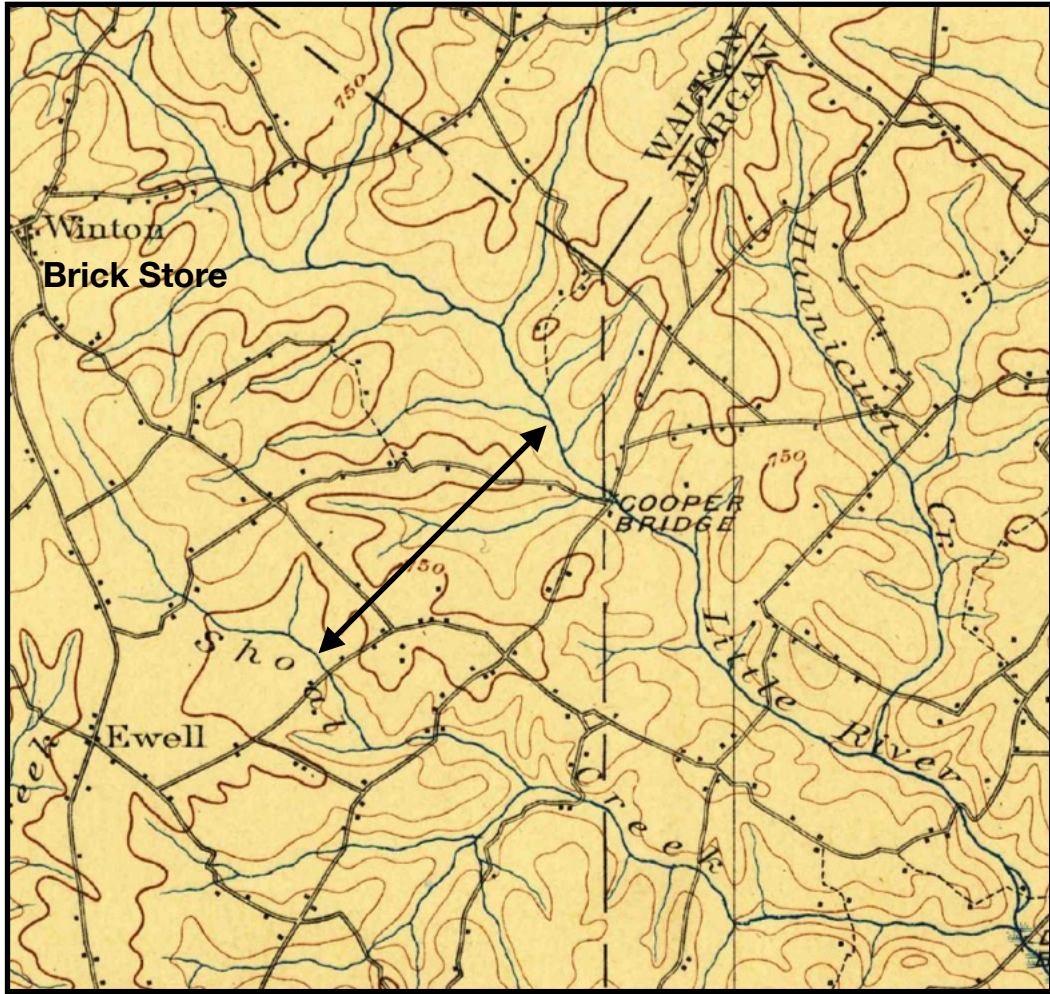
***Brick Store Newton County today.
Oldest-brick-building in Newton-County***



Newton County 1912 Brick Store School with the class out front. Brick Store Community.



John's homestead was in land lot 131. The Brick Store location as shown on the 1820 LL map was located in LL 197. However, from the narrative on page 1, the Brick Store was said to be in LL 161. Batt Stanton LL 128 was John's neighbor. 1820 First District Land Lottery Map

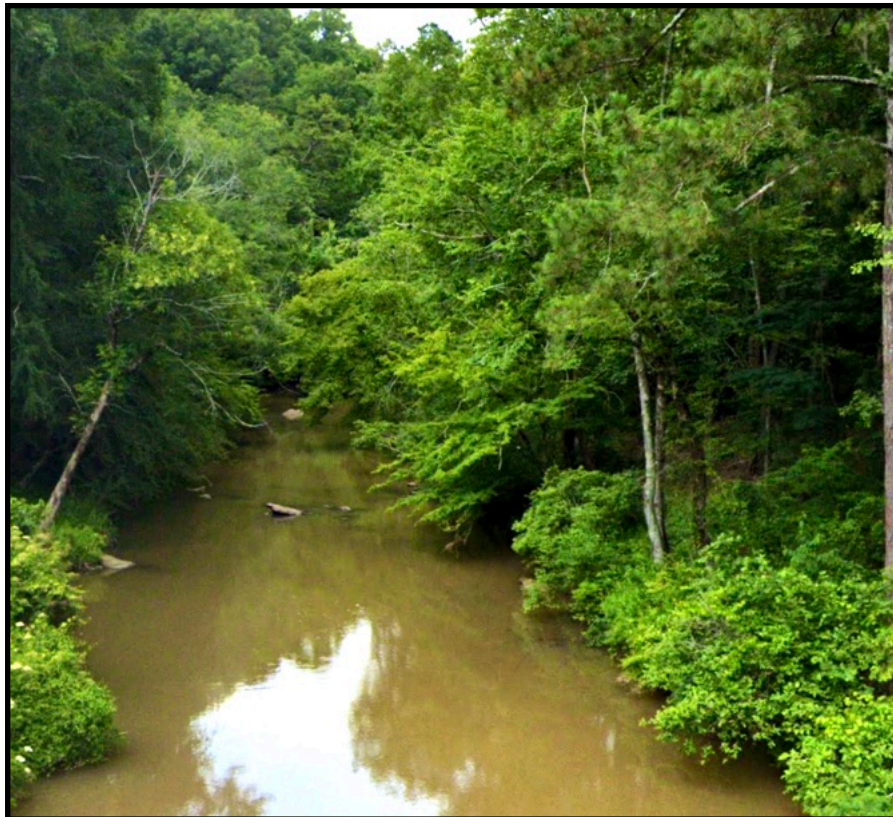


According to deed records John Middlebrooks 125 acre farm was located on Shoal Creek, a tributary of Little River

USGS GA, Monroe 1896, 125000



Shoal Creek where it crosses GA 83. Google street view.



Little River where it crosses Montecello Road, Madison, GA Google Street View