

# NOLAN CROSSROADS

SURVIVING  
FROM COTTON PLANTATION TO TENANT FARM TO PRESENT DAY



**1817 BARTON-SWIFT-NOLAN HOUSE:** THIS ANTEBELLUM I-HOUSE SERVED AS THE MAIN HOUSE OF A GROWING COTTON PLANTATION. THOMAS NOLAN PURCHASED THE HOUSE AND 200 ACRES IN 1856 FROM JOHN SWIFT. SLAVE LABOR WOULD END IN 1865.



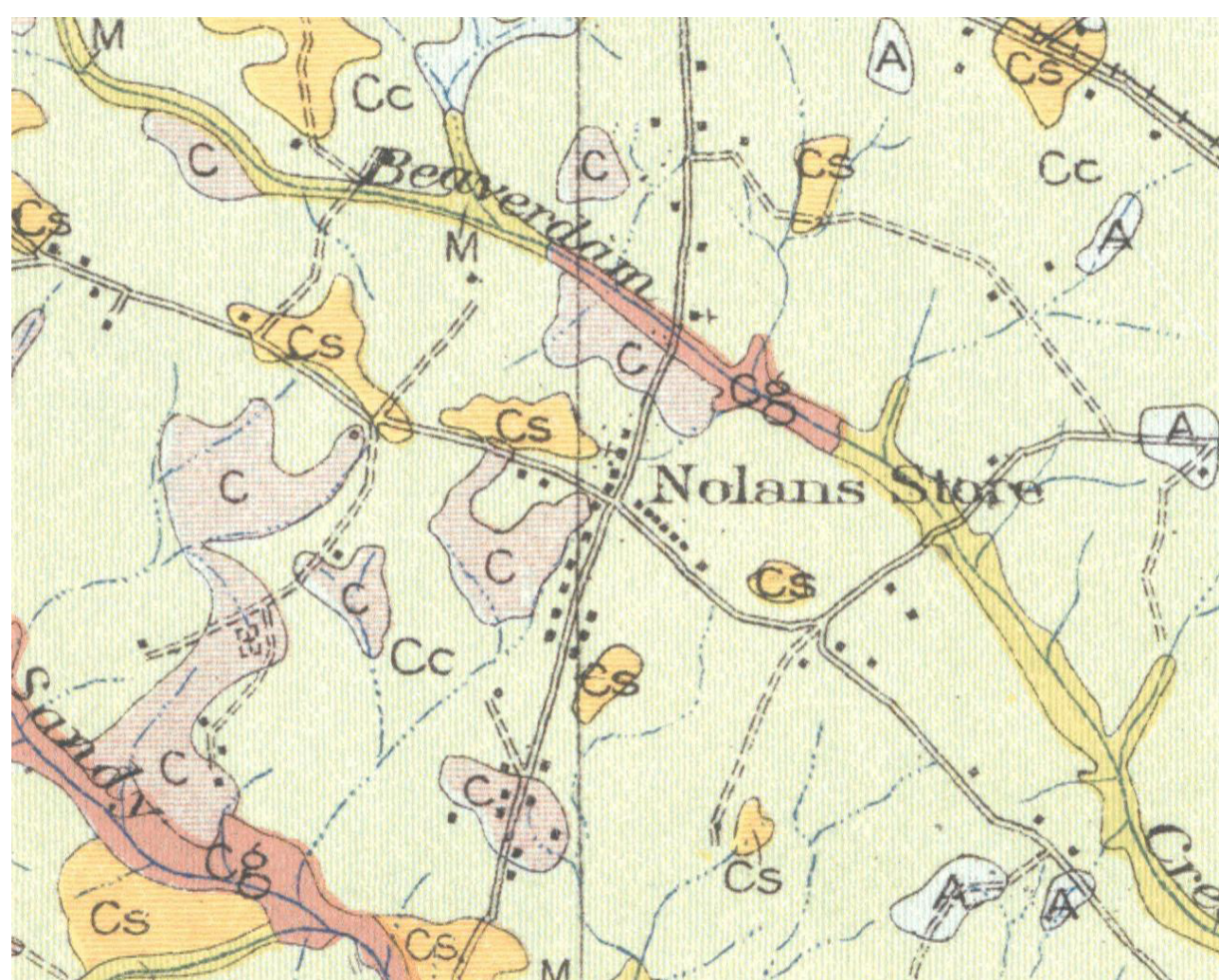
**1905 NOLAN HOUSE:** JAMES ALONZO NOLAN BUILT THIS HOUSE, SHOWING HIS WEALTH AND THE SUCCESS OF HIS COTTON FARMING OPERATION. TENANT FARMERS LIVED ON THE PROPERTY, SHOPPED IN THE STORE/COMMISSARY, AND WORKED THE LAND. THE HOUSE IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF THE NEOCLASSICAL PERIOD OF ARCHITECTURE AND IS THE LINCHPIN OF THE CROSSROADS.



**1905 STORE/COMMISSARY AND MULE BARN:** AS PART OF A LARGER COMPLEX THAT INCLUDED A COMMISSARY, MULE BARN, BLACKSMITH'S SHOP, COTTON GIN, AND MANY TENANT HOUSES, THESE BUILDINGS ARE LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF GA HWY 83 AND NOLAN STORE ROAD, ONCE A HUB OF ACTIVITY. THE STRUCTURES AND SETTING HAVE RETAINED THEIR HISTORIC INTEGRITY, CONJURING IMAGES OF A BY-GONE ERA.



**C. 1905 TENANT HOUSES:** REMARKABLY, MANY TENANT HOUSES STILL EXIST IN THE WOODS AND FIELDS AND ALONG THE ROADS NEAR THE CROSSROADS. THE NOLAN FARM, AT A PEAK OF APPROXIMATELY 2,000 ACRES WAS ONE OF THE LARGEST TENANT FARMING OPERATIONS IN THE COUNTY.



1919 Soil Map



1938 Aerial Photo



Today's Google Map



COTTON WAS KING IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY, BUT WHEN THE BOLL WEEVIL ARRIVED IN MORGAN COUNTY IN THE 1920S, MANY FARMERS DIVERSIFIED THEIR CROPS. PEACHES BECAME KING FOR A WHILE AND WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR MORGAN COUNTY BEING KNOWN AS "A FRUIT PARADISE." PEACHES WERE A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE NOLAN FARM UNTIL THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

