

Pennington Site Visit

On Monday, February 17, 2014, Jim and Bev Wiggins were guided to the chimney remains on the Pennington property by John Harris. Mr. Harris indicated that the developer doesn't have any information about the history of the site. I asked why the decision was made to use the Pennington name and was told that that was part of the agreement at the sale of the property from the Pennington family.

The property was deeded to Contentnea from the Pennington Family Partnership in 1277/866. The land was transferred to the partnership in 1999 by Rhodamae L. Pennington (whose spouse was, I think, Woodrow W. Pennington) in 839/731. I can't trace the land back farther than that.

According to Chatham County deeds John Pennington and wife Elizabeth, and their son John A. Pennington owned land in the Griffins Crossroads (US 64 x Mt. Gilead) area in the 1870s through early 1900s. John and Elizabeth Pennington are thought to be buried in the Pennington cemetery just off Pea Ridge Rd. (CCHA code L13.1).

I found John A. Pennington in his father's household in the 1880 census and in his own household with wife Martha in 1900, 1910, and 1920. Numerous children are identified. The families are farming throughout this period. I have nothing, however, that connects the family to the specific Pennington property being developed or to the house site.

The chimney remains are on a ridge. Access to the old site is not apparent. Mr. Harris suggested that the old road might have run along the ridgeline where the new road is now. There must have been a well for the homesite, but we did not see evidence of it, nor of former outbuildings. A few foundation stones are evident but the outline of the structure is not. I believe the chimney would have been on the north side of the house. The chimney is chinked with small rocks and mud. I can't guess the age of the structure.

GIS coordinates for the chimney are

35-44-08.4

79-03-44.2

Mr. Harris said that the developer plans to leave the chimney in place, to be dealt with by the buyer of the lot. We urged the use of the rocks on site if possible. We also asked Mr. Harris to let us know if any gravesites or other structures are located on the property as development proceeds.

Bev Wiggins 22Feb14

Photos follow.



Photo 1 Pennington chimney



Photo 2 Pennington chimney front



Photo 3 Pennington chimney front



Photo 4 Pennington chimney front left



Photo 5 Pennington chimney left side



Photo 6 Pennington chimney back



Photo 7 Pennington chimney right side



Photo 8 Pennington chimney front



Photo 9 Pennington chimney from road



Photo 10 view from chimney looking south