

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

6.13.

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 13 1979  
DATE ENTERED JUL 22 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Andrew J. Cheney House

AND/OR COMMON

Cheney-Newcomer House

**2 LOCATION**

SW of Marietta at

STREET & NUMBER

2760 Bankstone Road, S.W.  
(Powder Springs Road at Bankstone Road)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Marietta

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Seventh - Lawrence P. McDonald

STATE

Georgia

CODE

13

COUNTY

Cobb

CODE

067

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth J. Newcomer

STREET & NUMBER

2760 Bankstone Road, S.W.

CITY, TOWN

Marietta

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia 30060

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cobb County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

10 East Park Square

CITY, TOWN

Marietta

STATE

Georgia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE 1) Historic Structures Field Survey: Cobb County, Georgia.

2) Historic Cobb County, Bicentennial Project

DATE 1) November 1978

2) 1975

FEDERAL (1) STATE (2) COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS 1) Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources  
2) Cobb County Landmarks Society

CITY, TOWN

1) Atlanta  
2) Marietta

STATE

Georgia

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Andrew J. Cheney House, a Greek Revival plantation structure, is currently the private residence of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth J. Newcomer in the southwestern part of Cobb County. Although the house was badly deteriorated when they purchased the property in 1953, the Newcomers found that the structure had been almost unchanged architecturally from its original state. With the aid of local historians, the present occupants have restored the house in character and detail to its mid-1850s' appearance.

Situated at the crossing of the Old Tennessee Wagon Road (parallel to Powder Springs Road) and the Old Sandtown Road (now Bankstone Road), the two-story house rises among seven large oak trees believed to have been mature when the structure was erected. Fluted doric columns define the entrance of the house, which faces south and overlooks a broad, almost open, meadow. Measuring approximately forty feet by forty feet, the square structure has symmetrically-placed apertures on all facades. Exterior walls of the lower floor are masonry, veneered with stucco. A masonry and stucco water table projects from the wall of the house at the floor line. Upper floor and exterior walls are wood frame with horizontal siding. A deep flat wooden cornice bands the house on the exterior and joins the soffit with a crown mould. The moderately-pitched hip roof of the house forms a slight overhang and soffit with the exterior walls. Two brick chimneys equally spaced from the edges of the roof project above the roof line.

The stately house has a remarkably well-defined entrance which is visible from the east, west and south. The front door is shaded by a two-story-high portico supported by four columns which rest on tall plinths paired on each side of the entrance porch. Original plinths, porch and front steps have been replaced with concrete, but are of the same scale and shape as the original. The four columns are not original, but were added by the Newcomers to replace the previous portico, which had rotted away.

The four-panel front-entrance door is framed by a trabeated transom and sidelights. A shallow balcony (also replaced by the current owners) projects forward directly above the entrance, and is accessible from the second floor of the house through a single-transomed, fifteen-light door. The wood railing around the balcony is formed from small square wood balusters. Four six-over-six wood frame windows balance the front facade. The upper-floor windows are trimmed with one-by-four flat boards. Lower-floor windows do not have wood trim; stucco returns directly to the window frame.

East and west facades of the house are identical. With the exception of four six-over-six windows on each of these facades, the structure has no embellishments. Two earthquake rods tie the house laterally in the east-west

[continued]

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1857

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Owner: Andrew J. Cheney

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Andrew J. Cheney House is significant both architecturally and historically. Architecturally, it is representative of a four-room, central-hall plantation home with a Greek Revival portico that has survived the ravages of war to retain basically its original appearance, including much of its landscaping. Historically, the house represents a plantation "big house" in the late antebellum period. It was the home of a rising young merchant who, like many others in the county, had moved to the area after having prospered elsewhere. The site was also the location of headquarters of Union forces during the Civil War and, due to this, survived the devastation suffered by neighboring farms.

Andrew Jackson Cheney (1815-1886) was a merchant in Madison, Georgia, when he began acquiring property in Cobb County, some two decades after the county was opened for settlement after the Cherokee Land Lottery of 1832. Marrying at the age of 35 to Lucy Swift (also of Madison), family tradition has the couple moving to Cobb County about 1857.

Cheney selected a gently-sloping meadow at the intersection of the Old Tennessee Wagon Road and the Old Sandtown Road, where he erected the fine plantation house into which he and his wife moved. Old Sandtown Road had previously been a Cherokee Indian trail leading from North Georgia to the Sandtown Indian village on the banks of the Chattahoochee. The road bed of the Old Tennessee Wagon Road is clearly evident today and is located parallel and about 100 feet south of the Cheney house. Descendants of the early settlers of the area state that the Cheney place was a welcome spot for drovers who traveled the roads. The Cheney family offered food and lodging to travelers and allowed the drovers to rest their livestock in the pasture and barn which existed at one time across the road in front of the house. Tenant farmers probably cultivated much of the land held by Cheney in Cobb County.

During the Civil War, Major General John M. Schofield, commanding the Army of the Ohio, right wing of General William T. Sherman's forces on the Kenesaw front, established headquarters in the Cheney House in late June, 1864. From this point, General Schofield directed the flanking march of the 23rd Artillery Company on Sandtown Road. Cox's 3rd Division camped here and supported Hascall's 2nd Division near the McAdoo house in the nearby Battle of

[continued]

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Temple, Sarah Blackwell Gober, The First Hundred Years. (Atlanta: Walter W. Brown Publishing Co., 1935)

Historic Cobb County Bicentennial Project, Phil Secrist, director.  
Tapp, Virginia. Personal interview, May, 1977.  
[continued]

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA <sup>5</sup>

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9.2

QUADRANGLE NAME Marietta, Georgia

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 720250 3751770  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

In Land Lot 621, 19th District. Beginning at an iron pin on the southerly side of Bankstone Drive, where said county road intersects with the westerly side of Marietta-  
[continued]

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE James Gantt Fausett, Associate Professor, Southern Technical Institute;  
Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian, Historic Preservation Section

ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources DATE August 1978

STREET & NUMBER 270 Washington Street, S.W. TELEPHONE 404/656-2840

CITY OR TOWN Atlanta STATE Georgia 30334

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL    STATE    LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Elizabeth A. Lyon  
TITLE Acting State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 6/5/79

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Bill Lohmich  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
DATE July 29, 1978

ATTEST: Carl A. Rubin  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION  
DATE 7/19/79

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

direction at the second-floor. The rods can be detected by the round metal plates directly below the upper-floor wood water table on opposite facades.

The only structural additions to the house are at the rear or northwest facade. A one-story kitchen of wood-frame construction, which was originally detached from the house, was moved and is now joined to the north side of the structure and has been panelled inside. The current owners built a sun room and bath on the west side of the kitchen. Much of the early fenestration of the north facade is clearly evident. The transomed back door to the house is on axis with the front entrance. Three six-over-six windows are equally spaced across the upper wall on the rear. In restoring the house, the New-comers repaired large holes in the masonry wall at the rear. Long-time inhabitants of the area attribute these holes in the walls to cannon fire from Federal forces approaching from the north along the Old Sandtown Road.

Like the exterior, the interior of the house is remarkably simple in plan and architectural detail. The basic house (except for kitchen and sunroom) is an eight-room structure with each floor containing four equal-sized rooms and a central hall. On both floors all rooms have a fireplace centered on an interior wall. Every room has two windows, one on each exterior wall. "Closets" original to the structure exist in every room but the parlor; the dining room has two closets, one on either side of the fireplace. The rooms on the northeast side are all connected by a door.

Straight stairs connect the levels of the house and are to the left of the front entry. Simple wood balusters support the handrail of the stair. Risers and treaders are pine.

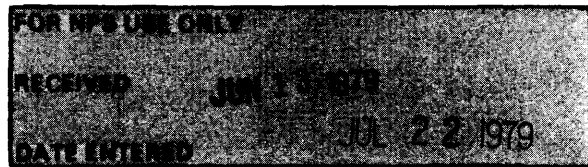
All flooring and ceilings in the house are constructed from wide pine boards. Ceilings in several rooms have wood batten strips covering the joints between boards. Those in the lower-right-rear room are original, the others made to match. Many walls in the house have a rough sand-plaster finish, which was added by the current owners. This was added to keep the walls intact. The dining room and one upstairs room appear to retain the original plaster.

Window and door trim is simple, without decoration. Interior doors are four-panel, hand-hewn wood construction on the lower level, and two-panel on the second floor. Mantelpieces remain in three downstairs rooms only.

[continued]

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** Description                      ITEM NUMBER 7                      PAGE 3

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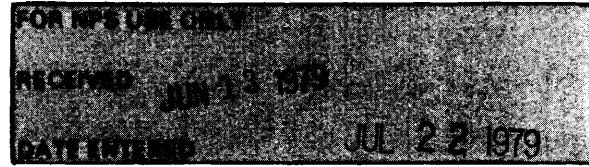
Both exterior and interior materials and details reveal that the house was probably erected by local craftsmen residing in the area in the 1850s. The interior doors may have been grained but have all been painted over.

The left-rear upstairs room has remained unfinished since the house was built, and its brick chimney is exposed, as is the framing of the walls. A floor was added, but is now virtually gone. The owners understand the room was used for storage, hanging meat, and by the cobbler, all at different times.

Also on the property is a barn and a well house. These two structures appear to date to the twentieth century and are located to the rear of the house. The Cheney family cemetery adjoins the property, although it is not a part of this nomination. The grounds retain much of the original setting with large trees shading the house, and a fair amount of acreage protecting the house from visual intrusions, including a shopping center and highways.

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** Significance      ITEM NUMBER 8      PAGE 2

Kolb's Farm. General Sherman inspected the right wing of the Kennesaw Line at the Cheney place on June 23rd and 25th. The Cheney house appeared on the Union Army's war maps of 1864 for the Atlanta Campaign.

After the Civil War, the Cheney family, like most Southerners, faced hard times. For the Cheney's, things perhaps were slightly worse. Lucy (Swift) Cheney died one year following General Sherman's visit, July 26, 1865, and was buried near a daughter, Fannie, who had died in 1861. A. J. Cheney married Nancy Hammack of Crawfordville, Georgia, in 1866, and brought her back to the homestead where they reared a second family. Cheney was forced, like all former slave owners, to contract with the newly-freed blacks; and the system of share-cropping arose in order for the social and economic structure to continue. After his death in 1886 and his wife's death in 1890, the plantation was inherited by the several children.

John Percival Cheney (1873-1965), a son by the second marriage, eventually took charge of the property and, once the family moved out, he let the place to tenants. It was during the decades of tenant habitation that the place became run-down and neared ruin. During the Depression of the 1930's, Cheney, a state legislator, was forced to sell the property. A well-known Marietta lawyer, John E. Mozley, bought it and it was he who sold it to the present owners, the Kenneth Newcomers, in 1953. They became the first owner-residents since the last of the Cheney family moved out a half-century earlier. They have restored the home as a private dwelling.

Architecturally, the Cheney house is something of an anomaly. In its siting and overall massing, its interior arrangement, and its interior and exterior detailing, it is an excellent example of the Greek Revival style in Piedmont Georgia. Its construction, however, is unusual. There are very few Greek Revival houses in Georgia with full raised masonry "basements" and wood-framed upper floors; most one and two story houses of the period are entirely wood-framed and are built upon short masonry piers. The reasons for this peculiar building technique are not known at the present time. That such a house combining excellent period design with seemingly idiosyncratic construction has survived, and is virtually intact, is of interest and has significance in the history of Georgia architecture.

The Cheney House represents a significant place in the architectural and local history of the area in which it stands. As an excellent example of a late-antebellum structure built by a rising merchant-farmer, it echoes the style of the time and, although not elaborate, met the needs of his growing family and social position. Historically, it is a local landmark, having survived the devastation suffered by many plantations, because it was selected as a headquarters by invading Union forces. Thus, in both areas, it continues, as it is restored, to project much of the flavor of the era in which it began.

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Bibliography &  
CONTINUATION SHEET Verbal Boundary ITEM NUMBER 9 & 10 PAGE 2

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Major Bibliographical References

Newcomer, Kenneth. Personal interview, April, 1977.

Cheney, Major John P., grandson of Andrew J. Cheney. Personal interview, May, 1977.

Fausett, James G. Personal inspection, April, 1977.

Thomas, Kenneth H., Jr. Personal inspection, June, 1978.

"Cheney Family Record," c. 1930, from Cheney Family Folder, Georgia Department of Archives & History, Atlanta.

"W.S. Cheney" sketch in Biographical Souvenir of the States of Georgia and Florida (1889), Vol. I, page 161.

Verbal Boundary Description

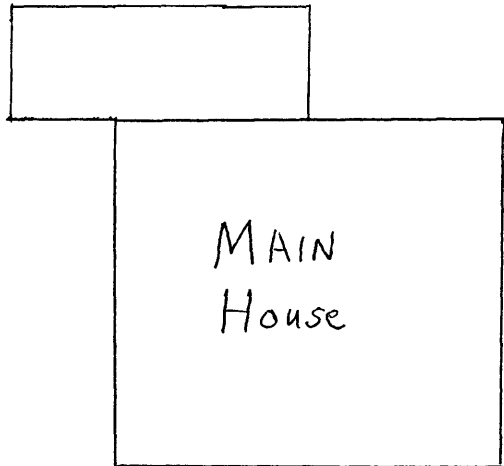
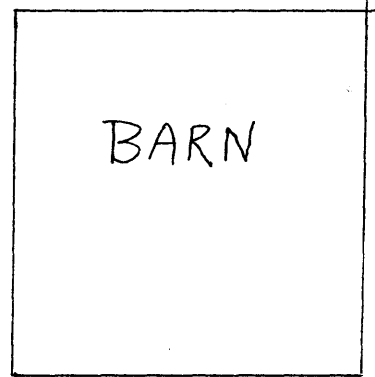
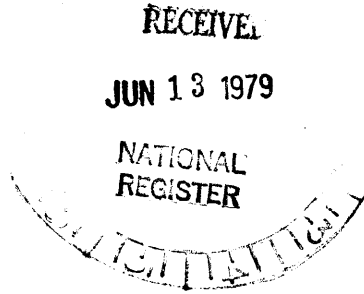
Powder Springs Road, go southerly along the westerly side of the Marietta-Powder Springs Road for a distance of 518.5 feet to an iron pin, then go west, along the north side of Horse Shoe Bend Road, for a distance of 518.2 feet to an iron pin, which is at the southeast corner of the Cheney Family Cemetery; then go north 20 degrees 45 minutes east for a distance of 956 feet to an iron pin on the southerly side of Bankstone Drive, then go southerly along the south side of said road for a distance of 717 feet to the point of beginning.

Situated upon the land conveyed by this deed, which has an area of 9.2 acres as shown by the plat thereof by Robert T. Weaver, surveyor, in July, 1953, is a dwelling and a barn. Deed recorded July 20, 1953, in Deed Book 263, p. 449. As shown on Cobb County, Georgia, Tax Map, District 19, Map (land lot) 621, Parcel 4, a copy of which is enclosed with the boundary marked with a red line.



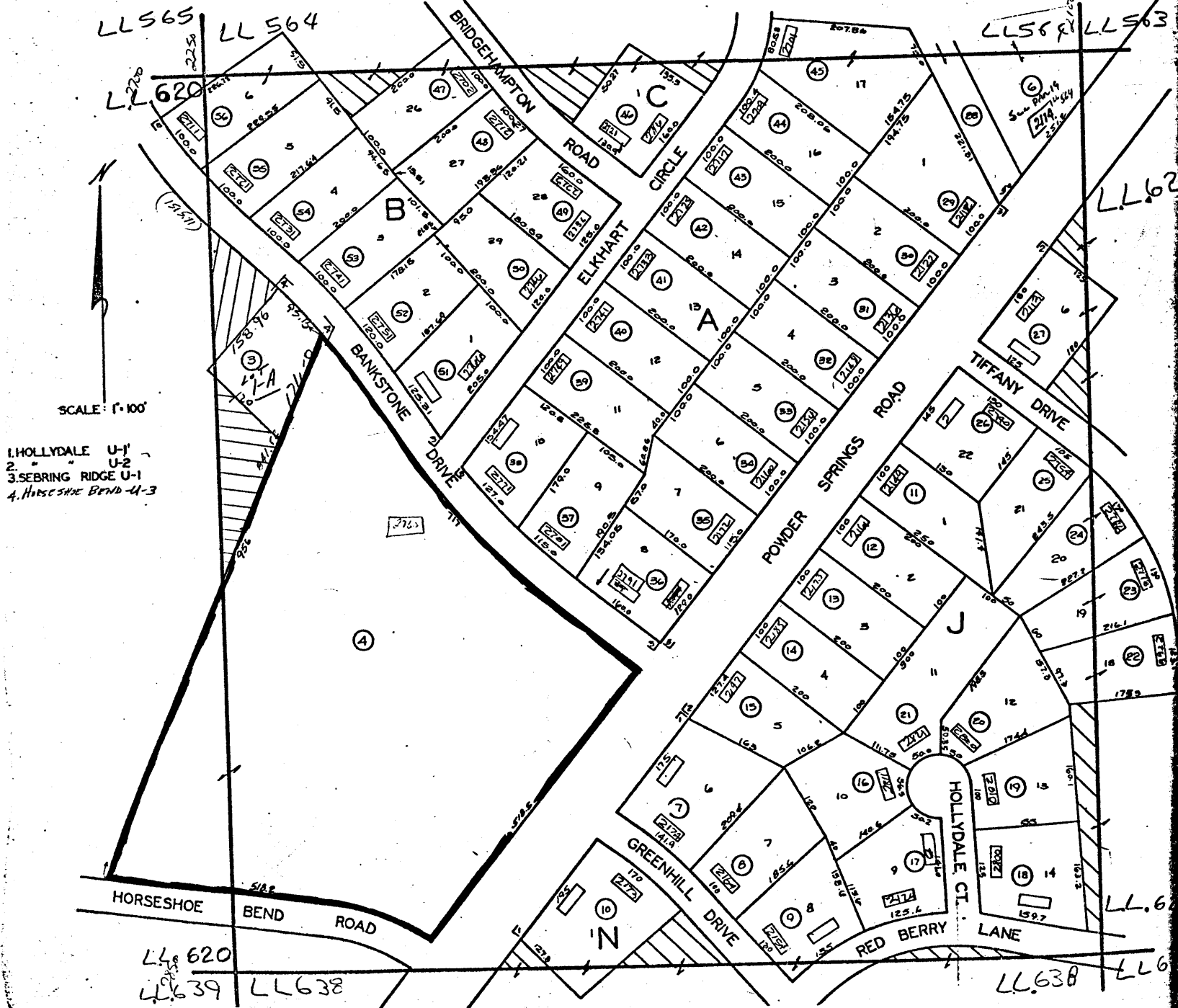
Sketch Map  
(Not to Scale)

ANDREW J. CHENEY HOUSE  
Marietta, Cobb County, Georgia



39-1

LL.621-19-2



District 19, Map (LL621) Parcel 4

ANDREW J. CHENEY HOUSE  
Marietta, Cobb County, Georgia

Tax Map, boundary of nominated property  
shown by red line.

Cobb County, Georgia Tax Map, District 19,  
Land Lot/Map No. 621, Parcel 4.

JUN 13 1979