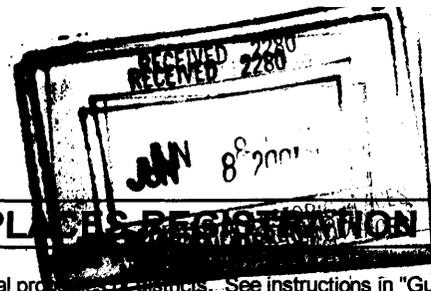


720



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Power, George A., House
other names/site number Power Cabin

2. Location

street & number Hyde Road
city, town Marietta (X) vicinity of
county Cobb code GA 067
state Georgia code GA zip code 30068

(N/A) not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property:

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property:	Contributing	Noncontributing
buildings	1	2
sites	0	0
structures	1	0
objects	0	0
total	2	2

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A
Name of previous listing: N/A
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Riccard Cooves

6-4-01

Signature of certifying official

Date

to W. Ray Luce, Division Director and
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Edson A. Beall

7-11-01

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

Jan

Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER: single pen

Materials:

foundation	STONE
walls	WOOD: weatherboard, log
roof	METAL
other	STONE

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The George A. Power House is located in an isolated area one-quarter mile from the Chattahoochee River surrounded by the Chattahoochee National Recreation Area near Marietta in Cobb County, Georgia. Facing in an east-northeasterly direction, the house is located at the end of Hyde Road, which is closed to most vehicular traffic. The house is located on the brow of a hill near the end of the natural ridge along which Hyde Road runs.

Summary Description

Built c.1845, the George A. Power House is a one-and-one-half-story, log, single-pen house with a side-gable metal roof and fieldstone-pier foundation. The exterior features a shed-roof, partial-width porch with log posts, an exterior-end fieldstone chimney, and doors centered on each eave-side of the house (photographs 1 and 2). The existing clapboard was probably added during the early 20th century. An 1850s frame, one-room addition is located on the south side (photographs 4 and 5). A kitchen with one exterior-end, fieldstone chimney was added to the rear of the house in the 1860s (photographs 3 and 4).

The interior retains its wide-plank wood flooring under modern floor coverings, stone fireplaces, and remains of whitewash on the logs. The interior of the original single-pen log house retains its log walls with remnants of whitewash, fieldstone fireplace with no mantle, and enclosed staircase to the loft (photographs 7 and 8). The interior of the 1860s kitchen addition has been covered with non-historic paneling, floor covering, and a suspended ceiling but retains its fieldstone fireplace (photograph 9). Changes to the house include installing several windows and a dormer. The house has never had indoor plumbing. Water is still drawn from the 1860s well and a non-historic privy is

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7--Description

located on the property. No historic outbuildings remain on the property after the log smokehouse, corn crib, and shed burned in 1937. The landscaping includes several mature hardwoods and the remains of agricultural terracing.

Full Description

The George A. Power House is a one-and-one-half-story house that evolved from a single-pen log structure built c.1845. A wood-framed room was added to the south end of the log structure in the 1850s and a wood-framed kitchen to the rear in the 1860s. The log pen and the kitchen both have large stone fireplaces and chimneys on the northwest side of the house. The house was never finely finished, and although there have been modifications in the 20th century, it still retains much of its historic rustic appearance.

Facing in an east-northeasterly direction and rising to a height of about 12', the original log pen of the house measures approximately 18-1/2' front to rear and about 22' end to end. The main sills of the log house are unbarked oak logs, measuring about 10" to 11" in diameter. Both sills were flattened on the top and the rear sill has been flattened on the bottom as well. The rear sill rests on the ground for part of its length but the remainder of the sills are set on very low, dry-laid, stacked, stone piers at each corner of the pen.

Nine courses of logs carry the pen to a height of about 12', but as was typical for the period, sawn floor and ceiling joists and a wood-framed roof structure completed the structure. Only in remote or unsettled areas where sawn lumber and cut nails were not available did the 19th-century settlers go to the trouble of building up the gable ends in logs and using log purlins and boards for the roof.

There is little historical documentation to determine the exact construction date of Power's log house or any of its historic 19th century additions. Differences in the materials do, however, offer a basis for establishing a sequence of construction and also suggest a time frame for the building's historical evolution. The use of sash-sawn lumber in the floor and roof framing and in some finishes of the log pen is consistent with a construction date in the 1840s.

There were three major additions to the original log pen: the front porch, which originally included rooms at both ends, the south room, and the kitchen. Surviving material on the front porch suggests that it is more or less contemporaneous with the south room although the attachment of original siding between the log pen and the south room proves that the porch rooms were built first. At each end of the front porch, original 4" x 6" headers survive, each with empty mortises for studs set on 30" centers. These headers are lapped and nailed on to the sides of the log walls. Much of the front porch floor framing was replaced in the twentieth century but an early generation of floor joists, measuring about 1-3/4" x 6-1/2", may be part of the original porch. According to Morning Washburn

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7--Description

(the current resident), the original hewn sills of the porch were replaced in the 1970s; hewn sills suggest that the porch was added in the 1850s, although the relationship of the existing joists to the original structure cannot be established.

A clear distinction can be made between the structure of the south room and that of the kitchen which suggests that at least part of the kitchen was constructed after the Civil War. Both structures are set on field stone piers, but the south room has hewn oak sills, roughly squared to about 9" x 10", while the kitchen is set on circular-sawn oak sills that measure about 4" x 8". Hewn sills were usual on many, if not most, antebellum buildings since the early steam-powered saw mills had difficulty handling the long lengths that were required for sills. Until after the Civil War when improved sawmills made use of the balloon frame and modern dimensioned lumber more widespread, it remained easier and cheaper to hew sills on site in the traditional manner.

In addition, the floor joists under the south room and under the kitchen are different. Under the south room, six of the joists are crudely split logs, sawn and installed atop the hewn sills in a manner similar to that used for the sawn joists in the log pen. Two of the joists, however, are circular sawn and are about 4" x 5-3/4", a dimension that is also found in the corner posts and top plates of the south room and in the surviving framing from the front porch rooms. In contrast, the kitchen joists are all circular-sawn to a fairly uniform dimension of about 1-3/4" x 7-3/4", which is characteristic of the fourth quarter of the 19th century but not the third.

Both the south room and the kitchen represent variations on the balloon frame. In the south room, four corner posts, approximately 4" x 6", are attached to the hewn sills which surround all four sides of the room. Similarly dimensioned top plates are lapped, mortised, tenoned and pegged to the corner posts but conventional 2" x 4" studs are nailed at 30" centers along the outside walls. Corner bracing is also probably present although that has not been observed.

The lumber in the kitchen structure is slightly smaller than that in the south room, with floor joists measuring about 1-3/4" x 7-3/4" and, as with the sills, suggesting a postbellum construction date. However, there can be little doubt that the Powers had a kitchen in a room off the rear of the log house, since that was a nearly universal addition to early buildings including the nearby Power-Hyde house that George Power's brother built. The presence of a 3" x 4" stud that is visible behind the siding in the north end of the kitchen is an indication that parts of an earlier structure may still exist. Until 20th century finishes are removed from the interior, any conclusions about the origins of the kitchen must remain tentative.

The original roof covering was most-likely hand-riven oak shingles and, according to J. C. Hyde, that was the roof covering until the house was reroofed with the existing sheet metal about 1941. A dormer was installed on the front slope of the roof of the log portion of the house in the 1970s.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7--Description

However, the original rafters and decking and the 1940s metal roof covering were all reused in what amounted to a raising of the original roof, with "new" sides created from materials salvaged from other old buildings in the area.

Only two windows are known to have existed in the original log house, and except for the glazed opening in the south addition, the house continued to be nearly windowless until most of the existing windows were installed in the 1960s. The rough opening for one of these windows can still be seen on the south wall of the log pen. Measuring about 20" wide and 18" to 19" high, this opening was closed by some sort of simple board shutter, hinged in a wooden frame that was nailed inside the opening. Similar window openings were located on either side of the chimney and remained without glazing until they were greatly enlarged and the present two-over-two, double-hung, window sash and frames were installed in the 1960s. In the 1960s, a new opening was created on the front of the log portion of the house and the existing double casement windows were installed.

A single window opening was included in the construction of the south addition in the 1850s. Located in the middle of the south wall, the opening was widened slightly and the existing sash installed in the 1970s. The earlier sash, which is visible in a photograph from the early 1970s, appears to have been four-over-four and physical evidence suggests that its original width was approximately 28" to 30".

The sliding sash above the sink at the south end of the kitchen were installed in the 1960s, although a window may have been built or installed at that location at an earlier date.

The attic or loft appears not to have had any window openings until the 1970s when the dormer on the front and the windows on the south end were created. Three openings were created at the south end of the loft, above the 1850s addition, again reusing original material while making slight alterations to the original configuration of the framing. All of the sash were salvaged from elsewhere, with double, single-light, casement windows mounted in the center opening and single, smaller, six-light casement windows mounted in the flanking openings.

None of the historic doors remain, but the original log house appears to have had both front and back doors. The existing doors date to the 1960s. The kitchen door also dates to the 1960s but since that opening was probably originally created in the late 19th century after larger doors had become standard, it may not have been altered.

Typical sawn clapboard, about 6" wide and attached with machine-cut nails, was used on the gable ends of the structure but the exterior of the log walls may not have been sided at all until the 20th century. There is no clear evidence for the existence of siding on the exterior face of the two logs at

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7--Description

the top of the south end of the pen, the only portion of the exterior of the log walls that is now clearly visible. The south addition was sided with clapboards, most of which remain in place.

The kitchen was also sided with clapboard but it was replaced by the existing board-and-batten siding in the early 20th century. At the same time, the existing board-and-batten siding was probably installed on the north end of the log pen, which may have remained uncovered until that time.

All of the vertical board siding on the front of the house is modern (i.e., post-WWII). The house has no formal soffit and fascia and only the simplest of corner boards can be found on the south addition. Some of the window trim on the window in the south addition may be original but none of the other 19th-century window or door trim remains intact.

"Ghosts" in the whitewash on the log walls indicate that the gaps between the roughly hewn logs were covered with boards about 6" wide. Traces of white wash can be seen on all of the interior of the log pen below loft level, which was a common practice that helped to brighten the dimly-lit interiors of most log houses. The walls were also covered with newsprint at one time, a common practice in the late 19th and early 20th century that helped cut down on drafts in the winter time. Fragments of these papers survive on the walls, with some of them appearing to date at least to the 1930s or 1940s.

The house was floored with plain boards, varying in width from 8" to 12". Although most of it is now covered by modern floor coverings, inspection of that which is visible from the underside indicates that most of the original material remains in place except in parts of the kitchen and around the fireplaces.

The ceiling joists and the loft flooring in the log portion of the house were mostly removed in the 1960s and the existing partial loft and stairs installed at the same time. In the 1970s, a plywood floor was installed in the loft area above the south room, which had not been floored up until that time.

The remaining ceiling joists in the log pen appear to have been planed to a smooth surface, a treatment often found where there was not the intent of installing a board ceiling.

The south room appears to have been finished with plain boards on the ceilings and walls. Modifications in the 1960s obscured or replaced historic finishes. Evidence for interior finishes in the kitchen is limited due to modern wall coverings and suspended ceilings but plain boards that could date to the 19th century can be glimpsed behind modern paneling around the fireplace and are an indication that at least some of the historic finishes have survived.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7--Description

The only modern utilities that have been introduced into the house are electrical service, which was installed in the early 1950s, and telephone service. Water is still drawn from the well in front of the house and a privy is still in use on the property as well. Fireplaces are no longer used on a regular basis, with heat provided by a modern wood stove vented through the roof.

Although cellars were uncommon in log houses, remains of a cellar can be identified under the south room at the Power House. Dug out of the red clay of the hill under the rear half of the south addition, it measures approximately 6' x 7'-3". The sides have eroded and its original depth is not known.

There are no historic outbuildings that remain standing on the site. A log smoke house, another log building, probably a corn crib, and a later wood-framed outbuilding were burned about 1937.

The well, which was dug by Charles Geiger Power shortly after the Civil War, continues to provide water for the house. The existing stone-and-concrete well curb was installed in the 1970s but any wooden shelter that the well may have had no longer exists.

Two non-contributing wood-framed sheds are located near the end of the terrace on the south side of the house. The long shed, which includes privy at the west end, was constructed after World War II; the smaller shed was built in the 1970s.

The existing site contains only a part of George Power's old farmstead which, at its height in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, included cultivated fields along the river and in Lots 83 and 146 nearer Johnson Ferry Road. Nearly all of these old fields are now overgrown. The routes of most of the old farm roads, which were shown on the 1968 U.S.G.S. map as trails, can still be identified around the site. The most significant of these, and probably the oldest, is the road, now badly overgrown, that leaves Hyde Road near the line between Lots 221 and 220 and, passing the barn, continues in a southeasterly direction as part of the "settlement road" (i.e., local traffic only) that led along the river to Johnson's and Power's ferries downriver.

In addition to the outbuildings noted above, remains of George Power's terracing of the land are still clearly evident on the site. Running with the natural topography, which falls rapidly on three sides of the house site, Power created long terraces along either side of the door yards.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Architecture
Exploration/Settlement

Period of Significance:

c.1845 - 1914

Significant Dates:

c.1845 - construction of the house

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

N/A

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

Located in an isolated area near the Chattahoochee River, the George A. Power House is an excellent example of a house built by the early settlers of Cobb County. Originally a single-pen log house, two rooms were added to the house in the mid-19th century, and the house has had relatively few non-historic changes.

The George A. Power House is significant in terms of architecture as an excellent example of mid-19th century log architecture in Georgia. It retains its one-and-one-half-story, single pen form with its historic additions, logs, chimneys, stone piers, and wood flooring. The Georgia Historic Structures Survey indicates that there are only about 22 historic single-pen, log houses constructed in the first half of the 19th century out of 43,000 surveyed properties. The house is nominated at the state level of significance for the rarity of this house type in Georgia. More rare is the fact that the George A. Power House has been continuously occupied since its construction and remains so today.

The George A. Power House is also a good example of the type of housing that folk-culture scholar Henry Glassie has shown evolved from a vernacular tradition with its roots in northern Ireland. It was, in many ways, typical of the housing of the early settlers of the region. Many log houses were built in the first half of the 19th century (and later), but most of them have either been demolished or completely remodeled in the 20th century. The George A. Power House features 19th century additions that were typical for these houses and, in spite of late 20th century alterations, much of the historic fabric of the original house remains and the significance of the house's form and arrangement can still be easily understood.

The George A. Power House is significant in terms of exploration/settlement for its association with the Power family who were early settlers of DeKalb and Cobb counties. George Abner Power (1821-1914) moved with his parents as a child from Clarke or Madison county to DeKalb County in the 1820s when Cobb County was part of the Cherokee Nation. The Power family's land holdings were obtained through the 1832 land lottery. In 1843, George Power married Winifred Copeland (1821-1898) in DeKalb County, and although the exact date of construction of their house is unknown, the log house was probably constructed shortly after their marriage. By 1850, George Power owned approximately 300 acres along the Chattahoochee River in east Cobb County. George farmed about one-third of his land as a yeoman farmer, owning no slaves. The major crops grown were wheat, corn, small amounts of cotton, and other subsistence crops as well as owning livestock for family consumption. The George A. Power House represents a rare reminder of metropolitan Atlanta's rural, agricultural past.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

National Register Criteria

The George A. Power House is significant for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its associations with the early settlement of Cobb County, Georgia. The house is significant under Criterion C as an excellent and intact example of a single-pen log house.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the date of construction of the house, c.1845, and ends with the death of George A. Power in 1914. After 1914, the house was still owned by members of the Power family but was rented to tenants. The period of significance corresponds to the time period when George A. Power lived in the house as an early settler and yeoman farmer in Cobb County and when the house attained the features that qualify it for listing in the National Register.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The contributing resources include the house and the 1860s well. The two non-contributing buildings are the two modern, wood-frame sheds.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

NOTE: The following developmental history was prepared by Tommy H. Jones. "George A. Power House," Historic Property Information Form, April 1, 1999. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Construction of the log house has been traditionally attributed to George Abner Power (1821-1914) who is thought to have built it not long after his marriage to Winifred Copeland (1821-1898) in 1843. Power was born on 15 May 1821, probably in Clarke or Madison Counties in northeast Georgia. He was the son of Isabella Ballew (1781?-1848) and Joseph Power (1780-1875) and thought to be the grandson of John Power (1740?-after 1790) and his second wife Sarah Woodall (1750?-after 1790). John Power is thought to have immigrated to America from Donegal, Ireland, in 1761, and on August 8 of that year, married Rachel Duvall. He is thought to have later married Sarah Woodall, with whom he settled in Laurens County, South Carolina, where their three known children were born between 1780 and 1790.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

When George Power came as a child with his parents to DeKalb County in the 1820s, the future site of the Power House--Land Lot 217, First Section, Second Land District, Cobb County, Georgia--was still technically a part of the Cherokee Nation. Historical evidence and family tradition suggest that the Powers were among those who made free and frequent use of Cherokee lands.

The indices of the 1832 lottery include a number of people named Power or Powers--including Joseph, Jos., James, and Thomas--but none of their claims were in the "gold lots" in what became Cobb County in December 1832. Land Lot 217, the future site of George Power's house was granted to James Lee of Meriwether County on 9 February 1836 but he is not known to have ever actually lived in Cobb County. The loss of early records in courthouse fires in DeKalb County in 1843 and in Cobb County in 1864 has made it impossible to establish an unbroken chain of title to this particular lot or any other of the Power family's large land holdings in the area. However, family tradition and scattered documentation suggests that by 1850 Joseph Power, his siblings, and other family members owned large stretches of the western bank of the Chattahoochee River between Morgan Falls and Vinings.

It is believed that Joseph and Isabella Power settled on the Cobb side of the river just below Morgan Falls in the 1830s and by the 1840s had assembled a farm that encompassed as much as 1300 acres between Morgan Falls and Johnson Ferry Road. None of Joseph Power's documented property was granted by the State before November 1835 when Land Lot 281 (where Joseph would ultimately build his house) was granted to Jonathon Baker, Sr., of Washington County. Formal settlement of Cobb County was slow until after December 1835, when the Georgia State Legislature authorized an act for the Cherokee's final removal to the west, so that much of the land that became Joseph Power's farm was not granted until 1836 or later. However, several of the lots that Joseph Power or his children were known to have acquired in the area by the 1840s, including Lots 218, 219, 220 and 282-288 are, for unknown reasons, not listed in the lottery index.

Joseph Power does not appear in the list of Cherokee County residents that were required to sign a loyalty oath in 1832 or in the 1834 census. The census recorded 1,576 white people in Cobb County, but it can only be assumed that Power maintained his residence on the DeKalb side of the river until after 1834. He may, however, already have started farming the broad river bottoms on the western shore of the Chattahoochee River, which provided much better farm land than could be found on the steeply sided eastern shore of the river. In addition, Joseph Power owned the Cobb County approach to the old ford above Morgan Falls. While it was never as important a crossing point as the Shallow Ford upstream near Roswell, "Power's ferry and ford" were landmarks in 1864 and his sons continued to operate a ferry there in the late 19th century.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Joseph and Isabella Power had at least eight children who grew to adulthood on their parent's farm on the Chattahoochee River at Morgan Falls. By the time Isabella died in October 1848, at least three of their sons--James, Pinkney, and George--had married and settled nearby on land that, according to family tradition, was given them by their father.

On 11 January 1843, George Abner Power and Winifred Copeland were married in DeKalb County, with Justice of the Peace Josiah Power officiating. She was probably the daughter of Elijah Copeland (c. 1800 - after 1850) and his wife Sarah. Natives of South Carolina, they had moved to DeKalb County in the 1820s and settled near Sandy Springs where a road still bears the family name.

On 17 December 1843, George and Winifred Power's first child was born and was named William Charles. By that time, if not before his marriage, George had probably worked with his father and siblings to erect a log house on the low rise in the northwest side of Lot 220. According to family tradition, he later moved to the present site in Lot 217, although he continued to maintain some farm buildings in Lot 220 throughout the 19th century. It is not known if Power disassembled his original log house and reconstructed it on the present site (a not uncommon occurrence) or if he built a completely new house on Lot 217. Eleven more children were born and all grew up on the Power farm.

By 1850, George Power owned of 300 acres of land along the Chattahoochee River in east Cobb County. According to family tradition he is thought to have acquired at least some of his land from his father but he may have also been buying as well.

Although the exact extent of George Power's land ownership cannot be documented because of the loss of Cobb County records, his ownership can be proven for what was probably the core of his historic farm: Lots 152, 153, 154, 218, 220, and the fractional lots 151, 219, and 283, all of which formed a triangular parcel of slightly less than 260 acres.

Less than a third of Power's land was improved for cultivation during the antebellum period, and most of that was probably in the river bottoms that stretched for over a mile along the southeast side of his farm. Although George's uncle James, brother Pinkney and some other family members owned one or two slaves, George Power never owned slaves. As with most small farmers, the labors of George and Winifred, joined by the children as they grew up, were required to produce a livelihood on the farm.

The federal agricultural census from 1850 and 1860 provide snapshots of the Power farm during the antebellum period and suggest that it might be considered a farm that was typical of the yeoman farmers who populated the upper Piedmont in the mid-19th century. Power may have kept only between 50 and 100 acres under cultivation on a regular basis but on this land he produced as much

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

as 45 bushels of wheat, 500 bushels of corn, and a bale or two of ginned cotton, the last being his only "cash" crop. In addition, there would have been a variety of other farm produce that was not recorded and that was mostly consumed by the Power family and their livestock. Power was listed with a single horse, which he must have used for plowing until he acquired a team of oxen in the 1850s. Only after the Civil War did Power begin using the mules that became synonymous with 19th century agriculture.

The Powers also kept two or three "milch" cows and five or six "other cattle" as well as a herd of fifteen or twenty swine. In addition, the Powers, like many antebellum farmers, kept a small herd of sheep, the wool from which was spun into yarn and thread for the home-spun clothes that were typical of the self-reliant farm families. Finally, chickens would have been standard fare on the Power farm and there may have been other farm animals as well.

By 1860, the Powers must have completed the additions to their house, including the new room at the south end of the log pen and the two rooms that enclosed each end of the front porch. The census showed 12 people in the household that year, one of whom was an Irish-born school-teacher named P. D. Wheelan. Nothing more of his life or relationship to the Power family has been documented but he may have been helping educate the Powers' daughters since they as well as their nearby Power cousins were listed as "studying" in the 1860 census schedule.

The summer of 1864 the Civil War raged through Cobb County and the Power farm was at its epicenter. Although no direct documentation has been located for the effect the fighting and troop movements had on the Power farm, they could not have been good. With the Confederate retreat to and then across the river after the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Cobb County was soon over-run with Federal troops. By early July, foraging on both sides produced reports that "neither grass, wheat, nor other forage between Smyrna and Roswell on which to subsist his stock; Wheeler's cavalry had eaten the country clean." On July 12, Federal troops moved from Marietta to Roswell, via the main Roswell Road and the lower "river road," building trestle bridges at Sope Creek and at Roswell and pontoon bridges at James Power's and Hardy Pace's ferries. According to local history, along the river from Vinings to Roswell, which included the Power farm, the river bank teemed with men in the midst of preparations for leaving the county.

Although the Power family could have joined the thousands of refugees trying to get out of the way of war and hoping for the best as far as their property was concerned, traditional stories within the family suggest otherwise. George and Winifred's grand-daughter Winnie Power Groover recorded a story "which might be of interest to any of the great-great-grandchildren who love horses" when she wrote: "It seems [Winifred Power] had a young horse she had taken care of since he was foaled; when Northern troops approached the farm during the Civil War, she was determined they should not 'requisition' her horse. She took her pet a long distance away from the house, back into the woods, and tied him to a tree. The soldiers did not find him." Mrs. Groover also remembered that,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

"[S]ince the Northern soldiers were living off the land, they were foraging for food [and that her grandparents] kept a barrel of flour and one of corn meal hidden under the floor of the house."

Mrs. Groover also recorded her father Charles Geiger Power's sole recollection of that time. Eight or nine years old at the time, "he was sitting on top of a rail fence near his home when a detachment of Northern soldiers passed. One of them stopped and said, 'I have a little boy at home just about your size,' and gave the little Georgia boy a penny. I have often hoped that homesick soldier got safely back home to his family."

Nonetheless, the Powers would probably have witnessed the effective destruction of their farm. Although they managed to save Winnie's horse, they were probably helpless to prevent the "requisition" of their sheep, hogs, cattle, chickens, and any other edible farm produce. Fences and small outbuildings could also be easily torn down to furnish fuel for the campfires that dotted the countryside as tens of thousands of troops encamped in eastern Cobb County.

George and Winnie Power's twelfth and last child, Emma, was born on August 12, 1866, and their oldest daughter, Mary Elizabeth, married Andrew J. Ball in January 1867. In addition, in January 1869, the Powers' 16-year-old daughter Arkansas died and just over a year later, in June 1870, their daughter Julia, then 22, died as well. Both were buried near their mother in the nearby family cemetery.

George and Winifred were still raising young children, however, even in the 1870s, as their older daughters continued to marry into neighboring families. Sarah "Sallie" married Thomas B. Carpenter in 1877, Martha Jane married Lewis M. Dalrymple in 1882, and Cymantha married an unknown member of the Martin clan a short time after that. The Powers lost two more of their daughters, however, with their youngest daughter, 14-year-old Emma, dying in February 1881 and their second daughter, Martha Jane Power Dalrymple, dying in August 1885.

George Power's father, Joseph, also died during this period, in June 1875. He did not leave a will and his estate records show that by that time he had turned most of his property over to his sons. As his wife had been in 1848, he was laid to rest in the Power cemetery in Lot 214.

George and Winifred Power appear to have made few, if any, changes to their house after the Civil War, although it is possible that the kitchen was repaired or rebuilt about that time. It may have been around this time that Charles Geiger Power dug the well in the front yard, over his father's scoffing that he would never find water at the top of the hill. He did find water, however, thus eliminating the arduous trips to the spring at the foot of the steep hill behind the house. Although the well curb has been rebuilt in concrete and stone and the wooden structure that probably sheltered the well has disappeared, Charles Power's well continues to provide water for the house. In addition, a stove

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

pipe was added to the kitchen at some point, suggesting that the Powers could have installed one of the wood stoves that were widely available in the late 19th century.

In the fall of 1878, Charles began teaching for the first time, an occupation that he continued after his graduation from North Georgia Agricultural College. In 1888, he married Eva Elder of Indian Springs in 1888.

New families also moved into the neighborhood, many of them working "on shares" or as tenants on the area's older farms.

George and Winifred continued to depend on the regular routines of farm life in their old age--planting, harvesting, canning, milking the cows, taking care of livestock and the multitude of other tasks that characterized their way of life. By the 1890s, George Power was in his 70s, and had probably turned over cultivation of his farm to tenants as his sons married and moved away.

For most farmers, hunting and fishing were an important part of farm life and the Powers were no different in that regard. However, while they had done their hunting in eastern Cobb County in the 1830s, by the 1870s, they were forced further afield to find more than rabbit or squirrel. Charles Power noted in his journal in December 1878 that "Pa and Berone [sic] went to the mountains last Thursday with several others on a hunting excursion."

Winnie Power Groover recorded her memories of her grandfather George Abner Power, which remain one of the few glimpses of his character and personality:

I do not remember my Grandmother [Winifred] Power, but I have a vivid remembrance of Grandfather. I recall his love of music (he was said to be "a notable fiddler"), his sociability; his rich wit; and the pleasure he got from telling "a good yarn." Best of all, he was absolutely honest and highly respected for that reason.

When my mother [Eva Elder Power] first met "Father Power" early in her married life, she realized she had never known anyone like him. In telling his "yarns" he often used words she had never heard. On one occasion he climaxed a story by slapping himself on the knee, which was a characteristic gesture. Then he exclaimed, "Whoops, shinny, then we had ructions!" Mamma thought he had coined the words "shinny" and "ructions," so she was surprised to find them both in Webster's dictionary.

George Power's skill as a fiddler have been noted by others as well. Jesse and Jim Hyde remembered accompanying Power to dances and other engagements in the area. Walking was the usual mode of transportation and many of these excursions required a trip across the river. As they had probably been doing all along, the Powers kept a skiff at the river, which they summoned by

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

"hallowing" from the other side. On the Fulton County side of the river, they took a steep path up the bluff above Marsh Creek to Dalrymple Road and what is now Riverside Drive.

In September 1897, the Powers' daughter "Sallie," wife of T. B. Carpenter, died of unknown causes, bringing the number to 6 adult children that they had lost since their oldest child, William Charles Power, died in 1864. Fifteen months later, Winifred Copeland Power died the day before her 87th birthday.

George Power was, understandably, distraught by the loss of his wife. He lived alone for a while and Jesse Hyde remembered hearing him during this period seated by his fireplace alternately fiddling and crying.

Relatives and friends urged Power to leave but, by 1900, his widowed daughter Mary Elizabeth Ball and her two sons, aged 12 and 17, were living with him. Then, probably to everyone's surprise, George Power remarried in January 1903. His new wife was Betty A. Barrett, a 58-year-old widow whose life has not been well documented. Mary Ball and her children moved to Oklahoma during this period, perhaps joining her brother Beroni there and, in 1910, the Power household included George, Betty, her daughter Mary Aiton, and Mary's daughter Madalene.

In October 1911, George Power made his will. Betty was to receive the bulk of his household goods and farm implements while he distributed the remainder of his property in more or less equal parts to her, his living children, and the children of his deceased children. Power's will noted \$46.00 "belonging to my former wife, Winifred Power" which he directed be used "from time to time in caring for and keeping in order" his wife's grave and the will also directed that "my executor have placed at the grave of each of my family buried at the family grave yard a suitable stone, selected by him, the style and cost of placing the same to be in his discretion and judgement." Power also included a provision in his will that, if any of the legatees should contest the will, they would lose their inheritance. "I do not desire," he wrote, "my estate wasted or consumed in litigation."

George Abner Power died at his home, Saturday night, 10 October 1914 and was buried at the family cemetery the following Monday morning after a funeral conducted by Rev. Wm. H. Speer, assisted by Rev. M. Early. According to his obituary, he left "many other relatives in Cobb County" in addition to his wife, his children, nieces and nephews.

The executor of George Power's estate was his son Charles Geiger Power, who oversaw the making of an inventory of his father's estate in December 1914. By that time, Charles' step-mother Betty Barrett Power had filed suit contesting her late husband's will, claiming that he "was of very advanced age and was suffering from what is known as senile infirmity to such extent that he had lost his testamentary capacity" by the time he had made his will. The case was dismissed and, it is assumed, given the terms of Power's will, that Betty Power lost her inheritance as a result. However,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

her daughter Mary and her husband Ike Nance continued to rent the house from the Power family until Charles Geiger Power bought out his relatives' interests in the old farm in April 1919.

Charles Geiger Power never lived at the house after he grew up, but even so his children retained a strong sentimental attachment to the old home place, which had been the site of so many family gatherings in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Among his first tenants were Jesse Hyde's sister Bessie and her husband Emory Holt, who began renting the farm the year after Jesse and Lela Hyde bought Jim Power's old farm in 1920.

Charles Geiger Power died in March 1925 but the family continued renting George Power's farm to the Holts. Charles and Eva's son George W. Power married Virginia Wing at Bulloch Hall in Roswell in June 1928 and, after Eva Power's death in 1947, ownership of the farm passed to him and his siblings (Winnie Power Groover, Charles, and Royce) in equal and undivided shares.

After the Holts moved away about 1937, a man named "Hamby" who occupied the "upper house" on Johnson Ferry Road, burned all of the outbuildings at the Power farm. His reason for this action is unknown but included an antebellum log smoke house behind the house and a log corn crib along the road in front of the house.

A series of other tenants followed and, by the 1950s, the Power house had become severely antiquated. Although the original shake roof had been replaced about 1941, the house had no running water or electricity and probably even remained nearly windowless. As Cobb County's old agricultural way of life began to fade after World War II, the Power family must have found it increasingly difficult to find suitable tenants for the property, even though electricity was installed about 1952.

With Eva Elder's death in 1949, her children continued to rent their grandfather's old farm and the Hyde family, next door and only a short walk away, took increasing responsibility for the Power farm during this period. On more than one occasion, they extinguished wild fires that threatened the outbuildings on the place. Around 1960 when the tenants in the Power House caught the kitchen roof on fire, it was Buck and J C Hyde who got the blaze under control and saved George Power's house from destruction.

By the 1960s, suburban development around Atlanta began rolling through east Cobb County and about 1962, developers approached the Power family, offering to purchase the entire 320-acre tract that their grandfather had assembled before the Civil War. Two of the siblings (Charles and Royce Power) wanted to sell, Winnie would sell only half of her portion and George said absolutely no to any sale at all. As a result, 200 acres were sold to the Marett Co. and most of the western portion of George Power's farm was subdivided and sold for residential development. The "upper house" was probably demolished at this time and much of the internal road system on the western side of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

farm fell into disuse or disappeared altogether. For the remainder of the 1960s, the farm was rented to Ed Scoggins, who sublet it to others and is thought to have been responsible for removal of the loft floor and joists and installation of the existing windows in the house.

In September 1971, the Powers ran an ad in the Sandy Springs Neighbor for rental of a log cabin on 80 acres. To their good fortune there was such a person in Morning Washburn, who was instantly attracted to the farm that she calls "Nowhere." As Ms. Washburn wrote when the Power-Hyde Farm was awarded a stewardship award in 1996, she was in search of "country living and good neighboring" and "has lived there whole-heartedly ever since. For the past 24 years the Power place has been shared and cared for as a natural sanctuary--a wildlife preserve--with ongoing organic gardening and educational activities." Her residence in George and Winnie Power's old house helped, more than anything else, to insure the continued preservation of the Power house at a time when Cobb County's rural buildings and agricultural heritage were quickly being lost.

Winnie Power Groover died in 1979 and her 40 acres in Lots 218 and 219 were inherited by her children, Winnie and Charles, who sold it to the National Park Service in 1985 for inclusion in the national park land that was being assembled all along the Chattahoochee River. Upon George Power's death in 1995, the 80-acre tract that he still owned (in Lots 217, 220, and 283) was inherited by his widow, Virginia Wing Power, who conveyed the property to the Trust for Public Land. The Trust for Public Land, in turn, donated most of the property to the National Park Service in October 1997. In February 1999, the Trust for Public Land donated the remainder of the property, including the Power House and the surrounding 2.5 acres of land, to Cobb Landmarks and Historical Society along with a conservation easement to the federal government.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Census Records

United States Census of Population, DeKalb County, 1830, and Cobb County, 1840-1910.

United States Census of Agriculture, Cobb County, 1850-1860.

County and Local History

Cooper, Walter G. Official History of Fulton County. Spartanburg, SC: The Reprint Publishers, 1978 reprint of 1934 edition.

Garrett, Franklin M. Atlanta and Environs: A Chronicle of its People and Events. 2 vols. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1969 reprint of 1954 edition.

Garrett, Franklin. "Necrology." Unpublished MSS at Atlanta History Center.

Pennock, Pennock, Ed.D. "Mt. Bethel Crossroads," North Georgia Journal. Winter 1993-1994.

Price, Vivian. The History of DeKalb County, Georgia, 1822-1900. Decatur: DeKalb Historical Society, 1996.

Temple, Sarah Blackwell Gober. The First Hundred Years: A Short History of Cobb County in Georgia. Marietta, GA: Cobb Landmarks and Historical Society, 1997, reprint of 1935 edition.

Warren, Mary B., and Eva Weeks, editors. Whites Among the Cherokees. Danielsville, GA: Heritage Papers, 1987.

County Records at Courthouse

DeKalb County, GA. Records of Marriages, Minutes of Inferior Court.

Cobb County, GA. Records of Deeds, Plats, Wills, and Marriages.

Interviews

Carolyn Power Flowers, descendant of James C. Power, genealogist and family historian.

J C [sic] Hyde, born 1909 and resident of Power-Hyde House since 1920.

Morning Washburn, resident of George A. Power House since 1971.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9--Major Bibliographic References

Historic Maps and Plats

Davis, Maj. George B., Leslie J. Perry, and Joseph W. Kirkley, "Atlanta Campaign," The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War. New York: Fairfax Press, 1978 reprint of 1891 edition.

U.S.G.S. Map of eastern Cobb County, 1968, which shows historic buildings and roads prior to suburbanization of area.

Newspapers

Marietta Journal and Courier, 1914.

Personal/Family Papers

Memoir of Winnie Power Groover, grand-daughter of George and Winifred Power, 1968; original typescript in possession of her family.

Memoir of Sarah "Sallie" Anderson Miller, grand-daughter of James Power; undated typescript, original source unknown.

Journal of Charles Geiger Power, son of George Abner and Winifred Copeland Power, kept sporadically between 27 May 1878 and 28 January 1879; original in possession of his descendants.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued
date issued:
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9—Major Bibliographic References

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office**
- Other State Agency**
- Federal agency**
- Local government**
- University**
- Other, Specify Repository:**

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.5 acres.

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 740721 Northing 3760644

Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary for the George A. Power House is indicated on the attached plat map with a heavy black line.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the remaining historic acreage, well, and setting associated with the George A. Power House owned by the current property owners.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Gretchen B. Kinnard, National Register Coordinator
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 156 Trinity Avenue, SW, Suite 101
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** February 23, 2001

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable) not applicable

name/title Tommy H. Jones
organization N/A
street and number 394 Sinclair Avenue NE
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30307
telephone (404) 577-3583

consultant
 regional development center preservation planner
 other:

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: George A. Power House
City or Vicinity: Marietta vicinity
County: Cobb
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: April 1999

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 13: Exterior, front and north facades; photographer facing southwest.
- 2 of 13: Exterior, front facade; photographer facing southwest.
- 3 of 13: Exterior, north facade; photographer facing southeast.
- 4 of 13: Exterior, rear facade, kitchen and side additions; photographer facing northeast.
- 5 of 13: Exterior, detail of stone piers and cellar; photographer facing north.
- 6 of 13: Exterior, view of south facade and setting; photographer facing north.
- 7 of 13: Interior, view of original single-pen; photographer facing northwest.
- 8 of 13: Interior, view of original single-pen and one-room addition; photographer facing southeast.
- 9 of 13: Interior, view of 1860s kitchen addition; photographer facing north.
- 10 of 13: Interior, view of loft above 1850s addition; photographer facing southeast.
- 11 of 13: Exterior, view of historic well and setting; photographer facing southwest.
- 12 of 13: Exterior, view inside of well; photographer looking into well.
- 13 of 13: Exterior, view of non-contributing, modern outbuildings and setting; photographer facing northwest.

GEORGE A. POWER HOUSE
COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA

PLAT MAP
NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY:

SCALE: 1" = 353'

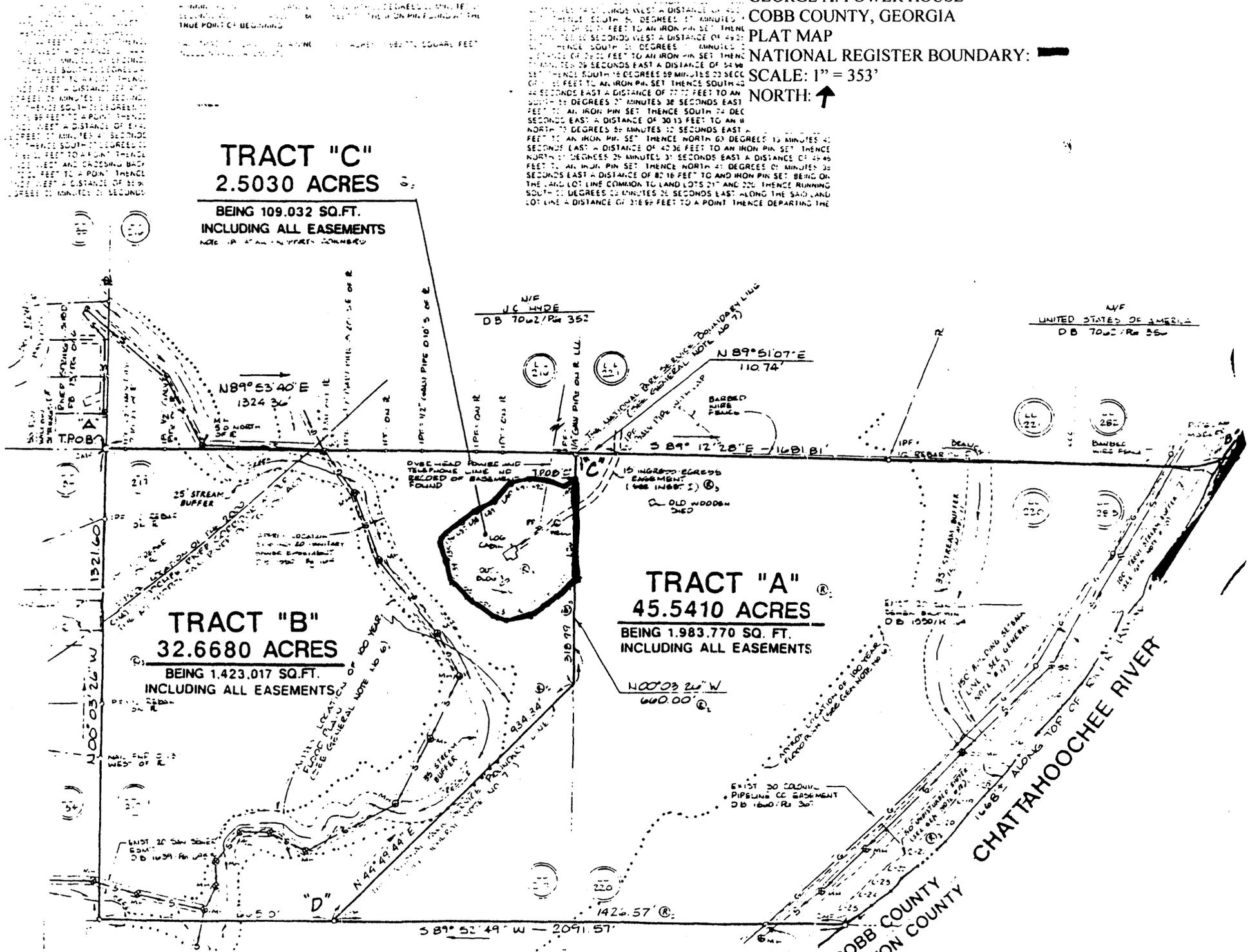
NORTH: ↑

TRACT "C"
2.5030 ACRES

BEING 109,032 SQ. FT.
INCLUDING ALL EASEMENTS
NOTE: 10 YEAR EASEMENTS

TRACT "B"
32.6680 ACRES
BEING 1,423,017 SQ. FT.
INCLUDING ALL EASEMENTS

TRACT "A"
45.5410 ACRES
BEING 1,983,770 SQ. FT.
INCLUDING ALL EASEMENTS



... 110.74' ...
... N 89° 51' 07\"/>

... 1324.36' ...
... N 89° 53' 40\"/>

... 1321.60' ...

... 1321.60' ...

N/E
W/C HYDE
DB 7062/Rm 352

N/E
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DB 7062/Rm 352

N 00° 03' 26\"/>

S 89° 52' 49\"/>

CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER
ALONG TOP OF ...

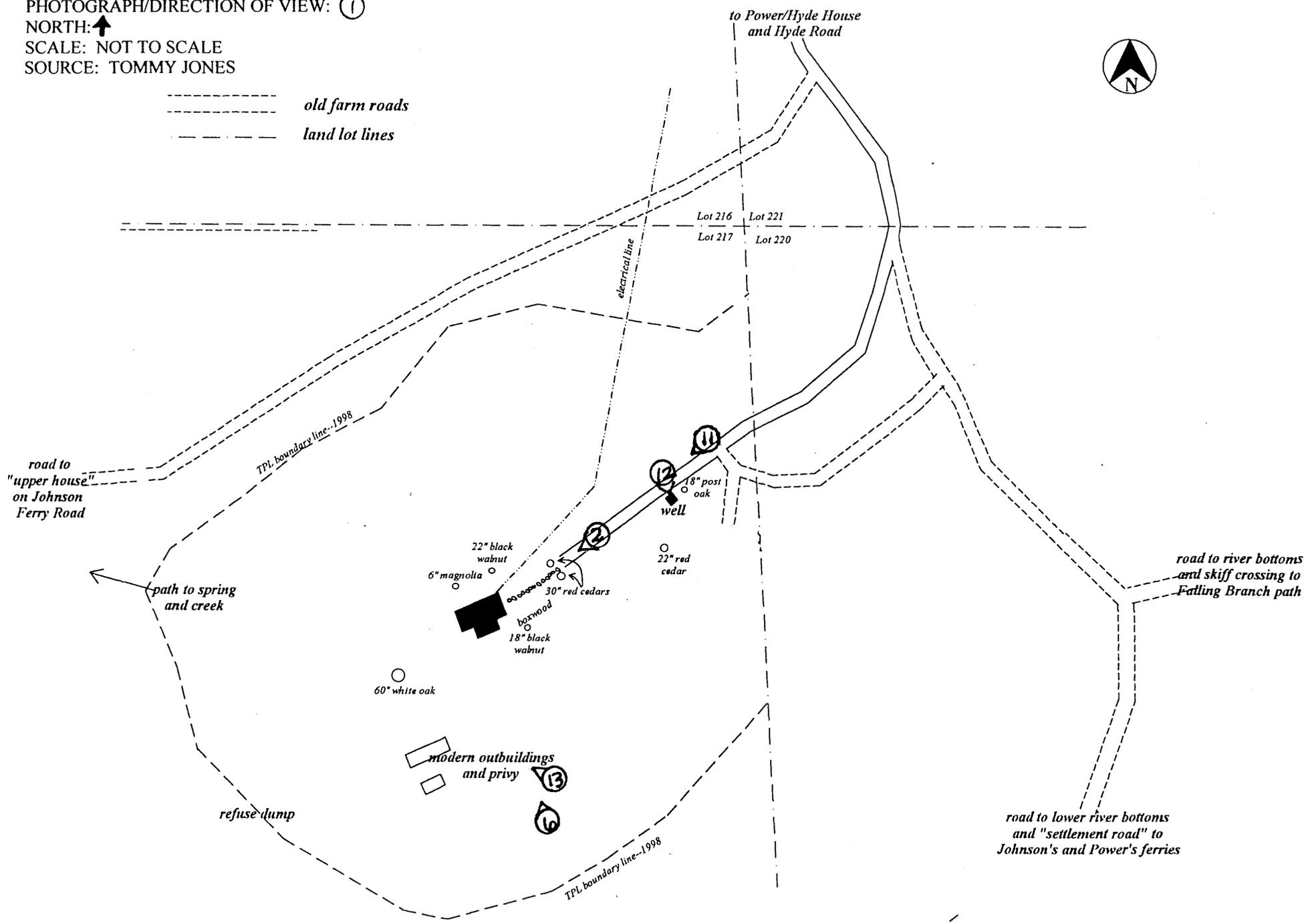
TRAB

EXIST. 20\"/>

GEORGE A. POWER HOUSE
 COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA
 SITE PLAN
 PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: 
 NORTH: 
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE
 SOURCE: TOMMY JONES

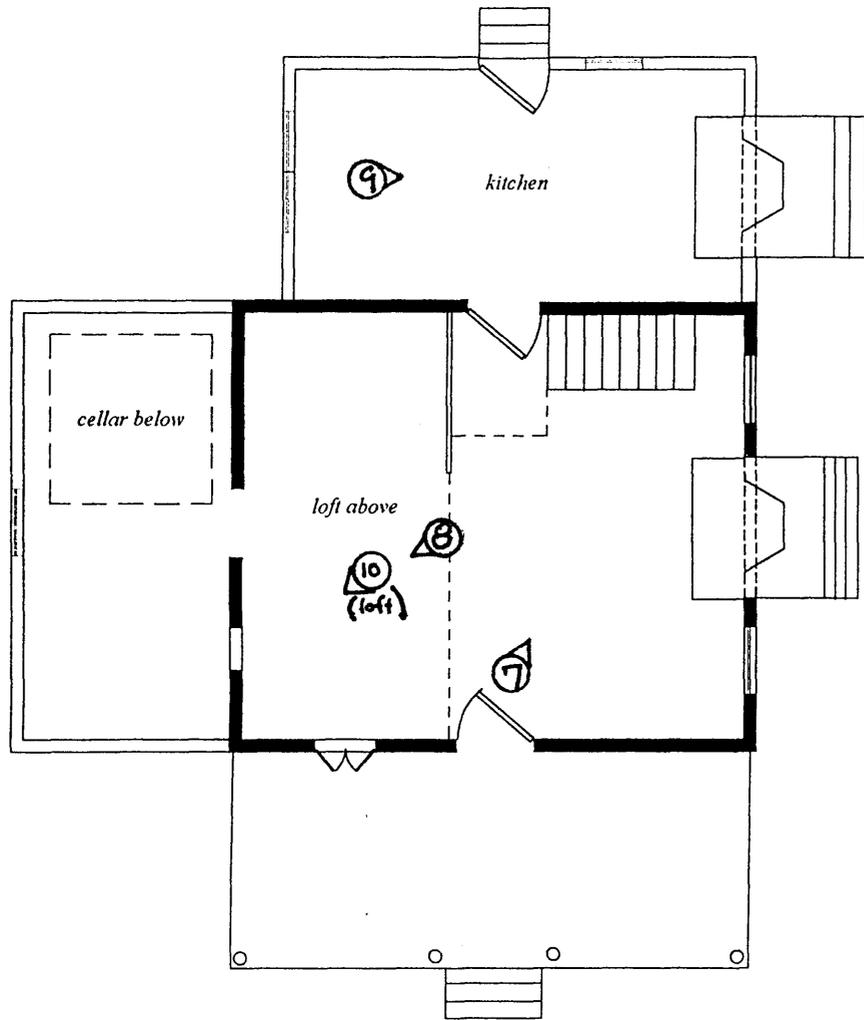


- - - - - old farm roads
 - - - - - land lot lines



4

3



*Plan
of
George A. Power House*



GEORGE A. POWER HOUSE
COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA
FLOOR PLAN
PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: 1
NORTH: →
SCALE: NOT TO SCALE
SOURCE: TOMMY JONES

1