

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Turnwold

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Old Phoenix Road *SE of Eatonton on* not for publication

city, town Eatonton *me* vicinity of congressional district 10th-Doug Barnard

state Georgia code 013 county Putnam code 237

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Franklin T. McElwaney / J.F. Reese

street & number Route 3, Box 138 / Route 3, Greensboro Road

city, town Eatonton vicinity of state Georgia 31024

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Putnam County Courthouse

city, town Eatonton state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Field Survey:
title Putnam County, Georgia has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September, 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Ga. Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Turnwold

Turnwold is located on Old Phoenix Road in Putnam County, approximately nine miles northeast of Eatonton. The property associated with Turnwold consists of 110 acres of rolling Piedmont countryside, with cleared fields, stands of woods, streams, and ponds. Standing on the Turnwold property are five historic buildings, two cemeteries, a historic site, and several non-historic structures. Among the historic buildings are two early-nineteenth-century plantation houses, a detached kitchen, a mid-nineteenth-century academy, and a late-nineteenth-century tenant house. The two cemeteries are family plots associated with the plantation houses. The historic site marks the location of a printing shop. The non-historic structures are primarily agricultural outbuildings, barns, sheds, and garages, all of fairly recent origin.

The Alexander-Turner House, Grounds and Outbuildings

The oldest structure at Turnwold is the Alexander-Turner House, one of the two plantation houses. It is located on a slight rise of ground in the northern part of the property. Built very early in the nineteenth century, the Alexander-Turner House is a variant of the Plantation Plain type. The main part of the house is rectangular in plan and two stories high, with a gable roof and exterior end chimneys. A one-story, gable-roofed ell extends to the rear. The interior of the house is arranged in an asymmetric two-over-two manner without a central stair hall; the stairway, in an interior corner, is enclosed. The house is built with a heavy braced frame. The exterior is sheathed in weatherboards; the interior is finished with pine-plank floors, wide-board wainscoting, plaster, beaded horizontal boards, and exposed beaded beams. The chimneys, laid in Flemish bond, are double-shouldered, and the fireplace mantels are high, paneled, and decorated with delicate, shallow moldings. The Alexander-Turner House has been altered, especially on the exterior. The two-story portico was added in the 1930s, replacing a full-width, one-story, hip-roofed porch which replaced an even earlier shed-roofed porch. The roof has been reconstructed, with the original flush raking cornice and tightly boxed eaves being replaced by overhanging eaves with returns. A one-story, shed-roofed addition to the southeast side of the house has been removed. A bay window has been added to the kitchen wing. Window shutters have come and gone over the years. Inside, the alignment of the stairway has been altered, and a bathroom added. Overall, the house is structurally sound and well-maintained.

To the northeast and northwest of the Alexander-Turner House are numerous non-historic outbuildings, including several large barns, sheds, and a garage. These outbuildings are part of a contemporary working dairy farm. To the west-

[continued]

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 2

northwest of the house, adjacent to the road, is a historic outbuilding -- the original detached kitchen -- moved to its present location from behind the house at some unknown date. The kitchen is rectangular in plan, one-story high, with a gable roof and a single end chimney. A shed-like addition has been built on the gable end opposite the chimney. The kitchen is built with a heavy braced frame sheathed on the ends with weatherboards and on the front facade with flush boarding. The base of the chimney is constructed of field-stone; the single-shouldered shaft is built of brick. Beaded exposed beams support the ceiling of the interior. The kitchen is currently used for storage and is in a deteriorated condition.

North of the Alexander-Turner House is the site of a mid-nineteenth-century printing shop. The printing shop was a one-story, gable-roofed, frame and weatherboard building. Its location is marked today by foundation stones. South-southeast of the Alexander-Turner House is the Alexander family cemetery, a modest country burial ground marked by a few tombstones.

The grounds around the Alexander-Turner House are informally landscaped with lawn, shrubbery, and mature evergreen and deciduous trees. These grounds merge with the surrounding fields and forests. A long dirt driveway connects the house and grounds with the road to the southwest. Near the entrance to this driveway stands a Georgia Historical Commission marker.

The Lane-Turner House and Grounds

The Lane-Turner House is the second-oldest principal building and the second plantation house at Turnwold. It is located at the edge of a low rise of ground, approximately four-tenths of a mile from the Alexander-Turner House, in the southeast part of the Turnwold property. Built early in the nineteenth century, but apparently after the Alexander-Turner House, the Lane-Turner House is a Federal style, two-over-two-with-central-stair-hall house, with a low hipped roof, single-shouldered exterior end chimneys and a one-story, gable-roofed rear ell. The house is built with a heavy timber frame sheathed in weatherboard. The front facade, facing northwest, has five symmetric bays subdivided into three parts by four full-height pilasters. The front doorway, centered on this facade, once featured side and transom lights. Windows are large, double-hung, nine-over-nine sash. The shed porch is a twentieth-century addition; apparently, the house originally had no front porch. The cornices are wide, boxed, and paneled. The rear facade has been largely resurfaced with wide weatherboards; its original design is unknown. Each end of the house shows evidence of alteration, and it is believed that doorways similar to the front once existed on each end, leading into a rear lateral hallway. Overall, the house is in a deteriorated state.

[continued]

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Description

Item number 7

Page 3

No outbuildings have survived in the vicinity of the Lane-Turner House, nor are the locations and appearances of vanished outbuildings known.

The grounds around the Lane-Turner House show no signs of landscaping except for a few large trees. The house sits directly at the end of a quarter-mile driveway leading from the road, however, and this driveway was once lined with oak trees, as evidenced by early-twentieth-century photographs.

To the northwest of the Lane-Turner House is the Turner family cemetery, a country burial ground marked by a few tombstones and a deteriorated iron fence.

Phoenix Academy

On the western edge of the Turnwold property, southwest of the Alexander-Turner House and northwest of the Lane-Turner House, on the west side of the road, is the Phoenix Academy building. Phoenix Academy was built in the early 1860s on the site of Union Academy, which had previously burned to the ground. The Academy is a one-story, T-shaped, gable-roofed, wood frame with weather-board building. The main section of the building, set perpendicular to the street, features a pediment with heavy cornice molding cantilevered on scroll-like brackets. The front facade underneath the pediment is sheathed with flush weatherboarding. Corner boards resemble pilasters. The two front doorways are embellished with eared molding and rosettes. The front porch is a twentieth-century addition. The side ell may be original or an addition; it contains two rooms, each with its own entrance. Two interior chimneys rise through the Academy building. The interior wall, floor, and ceiling boards are largely intact but covered with a variety of more recent materials. Overall, the building is deteriorated.

The grounds around the academy building are not landscaped, with the exception of a few large trees. A second academy building was once located nearby, but it has vanished leaving no sign of its location. Other outbuildings may have been associated with the academy, but they, too, are gone. South-southwest of Phoenix Academy are two large, contemporary barns.

Tenant House

Between the Lane-Turner House and Phoenix Academy, north of the driveway and east of the road, stands a late-nineteenth-century tenant farmhouse. This house is one-story high on brick piers and has an asymmetric floor plan and

[continued]

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Description

Item number 7

Page 4

massing, with multiple gable roofs. The house is built with a wood frame sheathed with weatherboards. Diamond-cut shingles fill a front gable. There are several single-shouldered, gable-end exterior chimneys. A front porch, of a simple Craftsman design, was added in the early-twentieth century. Overall, the house is in fair condition.

This tenant house stands in a field with no landscaped grounds. To the south is a small storage shed.

Boundary Justification

An arbitrary boundary had been delineated to incorporate the significant structures remaining at Turnwold under the ownership of the present two owners. Early records are not specific enough to determine the exact boundaries of the original two plantations and it would be unfeasible to nominate the several thousands of acres once associated with the Turner Plantations due to this. The boundary is marked on the U.S.G.S. Map/Sketch Map and follows plats on file in the Putnam County Courthouse for several boundaries and the highway for others.

Photographs

Although now three years old, a recent site inspection indicates that the buildings and landscaping remain as pictured without significant alteration during the intervening years.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" 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) Journalism
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Turnwold is significant in education, literature, journalism and historic archaeology. Here, Joseph Addison Turner (1826–1868), editor of Turner's Monthly, The Eatonton Independent Press, and The Plantation, and contributor to The Southern Literary Messenger and The Southern Literary Gazette, managed his plantation, which included a hat shop, distillery, tannery and printing office. It was in this printing shop that Turner, "the greatest of the native Georgia editors," published The Countryman, "the only newspaper known to have been printed on a Southern plantation." The Countryman was unique in the history of American journalism because it was successfully published for four years on a remote Georgia plantation and, as Turner had intended, was a reflection of Southern life during the Civil War. It was also in this community that Joel Chandler Harris, author of the Uncle Remus stories, received inspiration for his literature. During the formative period of his life, Harris spent four years working under J.A. Turner.

Turnwold consists of two main houses and their associated outbuildings as well as the Phoenix Academy across the road from them. Some confusion exists with the name Turnwold being used to refer to both plantation homes separately and collectively. For the purpose of this essay, they will be referred to as the Alexander-Turner House and the Lane-Turner House, reflecting the previous owners of both.

The Alexander-Turner House was purchased by Joseph Addison Turner shortly after his 1850 marriage to Louisa Dennis. In two deeds, dated 1851, he paid a total of \$9,905 for 996 acres from Major William Alexander. Turner lived here from 1851–1866 and then moved into Eatonton where he lived at the time of his death in 1868. This house and plantation are slightly north of the Lane-Turner House that his own father, William, had purchased in 1849 from his grandfather Joseph.

The Alexander-Turner House was the residence of Joseph Addison Turner, a man of many accomplishments as a lawyer, scholar, planter and publisher. It is noted as the home of Turner's The Countryman, which was the only Southern plantation newspaper. It was here that Joel Chandler Harris (1848–1908), well-known author, who was a native of this county, and creator of "Uncle Remus," served as an apprentice in the printing shop, and it was his four-year stay at Turnwold that marked the beginning of his literary career. Harris, who came to Turnwold in 1862, later wrote: "The paper on which I started out in life was unlike any other one; it stands solitary and alone among newspapers."

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9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property app. 110 acres

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Harmony, Ga.

Scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	1 7	2 8 8 0 4 0	3 6 9 5 7 5 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 7	2 8 8 7 8 0	3 6 9 5 0 0 0
E			
G			

B	1 7	2 8 8 8 0 0	3 6 9 5 7 3 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1 7	2 8 7 9 8 0	3 6 9 5 0 1 0
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

As marked on the accompanying Sketch Map. See Section 7 for justification.

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 Ellen Albert, intern; Richard Cloues, architectural historian; and
Kenneth H. Thoams, Jr., historian

organization Historic Preservation Section,
Ga. Dept. of Natural Resources date December 31, 1979

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

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth P. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Acting State Historic Preservation Officer date 12/31/79

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

W. Ray Luce date 3/10/80
for Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Carol A. Dubois date 3/3/80
Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

Through his observations of Turner in the role of master of Turnwold and through his own contacts with plantation life, Harris acquired his knowledge of the plantation mores which he was to depict in his stories of that era.

The shop where The Countryman was printed was moved in 1863 to "the very door of my sanctum, where it will be published more immediately under my direct supervision" (The Countryman, April 7, 1863).

The Lane-Turner House was built by Edmund Lane and purchased by Joseph Turner by 1820. Lane was a brother-in-law to William Alexander so both homes have had a family connection from the beginning. Joseph Turner had come to Georgia from Virginia and had lived in Georgia for several years prior to moving to Putnam County. He owned the house until 1849 when, old and feeble, he moved into town to live with a daughter, and sold the plantation to his son, William. Joseph died within a few years, in 1852. The Lane-Turner House was officially owned by William only a few years prior to his death here January 30, 1853 only two months after his father.

A man of an education unusual in his day, William Turner built a library containing approximately 1,000 volumes, whose authors were widely known throughout Europe and America. According to family tradition, after his death, his widow Lucy and unmarried son, William W., an attorney, lived there during the latter 1850s and through the Civil War. This is documented by a comment in The Countryman that a fire at Turnwold had destroyed a wood shop and blacksmith's shop belonging to "L.W. and W.W. Turner," thus indicating their joint ownership and occupancy. After their deaths, Lucy's daughter, Fannie Hubert lived there until her death. Lucy died April 15, 1866 and William W. March 10, 1879.

The name "Turnwold", meaning Turner's field, was originally affixed to the Lane-Turner House and plantation by William W. Turner, where he lived with his mother, Lucy. Joseph A. Turner liked the name so much that, at his own admission, he changed the name of his own house and plantation (the Alexander-Turner place) to the same. By the time of the Civil War and the publishing of The Countryman, no distinction was made between the two houses and plantations without specifying which Turner lived there.

There are two cemeteries on the property. The Turner family graveyard is very near the Lane-Turner House, and family members feel it reflects their pre-occupation with death. Many family members were moved here from Virginia. Many of the Turner family members are commemorated on one larger marker. The other cemetery is nearer the Alexander-Turner House and includes the graves of Major Alexander's two wives, children who died young, and some grandchildren.

[continued]

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 3

In 1860, on the eve of the Civil War, Joseph Addison Turner was farming the 990 acres he purchased in 1851. He produced sixty bales of cotton as well as 100 pounds of wool, corn, wheat and rye. His brother, William W. Turner, was farming only 650 acres, raising primarily livestock, wheat, corn and wool, with no cotton production indicated in the census.

During 1864, a detachment of General William T. Sherman's troops invaded Turnwold and reduced the area to shambles. In 1866, shortly after the war, J.A. Turner announced the end of The Countryman in an editorial that summarized his feelings about his plantation, both past, present and future:

"Adieu"

When the Countryman was established, I was a southern planter--the highest type of man, as I conceive it, that the world has ever produced. God, through the severe chastisement of war, has made me, no longer, a southern planter. This type of man has forever passed away....

In my verdancy, I thought Turnwold, my plantation home, equal to imperial Rome, imperial London, or imperial Paris....

[but due to the change of government and life style] This being the case, I cannot longer publish The Countryman. It was a representation of independent country life, and of the home of the planter. These are gone, and The Countryman goes with them.--Farewell!

[The Countryman, May 8, 1866, last issue]

In educational history, Turnwold is significant for the academy on its grounds. Phoenix Academy, built ca. 1862, is significant as one of the few surviving rural antebellum academies in Georgia. It stands on the site of Union Academy, organized with the help of William Turner, father of Joseph Addison Turner, in 1819, and incorporated in 1821. The first rector, the famed William H. Seward, who later became secretary of state under Lincoln, "opened the academy near Eatonton, Georgia, on April 19, 1819; and remained there for several months, when unexpected developments called him back home." A classmate of Seward's from Union College in New York, Philo D. Woodruff, was chosen, on Seward's recommendation, as his successor. Eli Smith followed as rector after Woodruff, and his successor was the last rector of Union Academy because, according to Mr. Knight, "the primitive wooden structure in which Mr. Seward taught the young ideas of Georgia was burned to the ground...; and the new building which rose in time from the ashes of the old one was not inappropriately called the Phoenix."

[continued]

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 4

Joseph Addison Turner was at one time president of the board of trustees, as well as a teacher at Phoenix Academy. During Joel Chandler Harris' apprenticeship at Turnwold, he was sent to school at Phoenix Academy in the morning and given work as a printer in the afternoon.

Over the years as the student body grew, a larger structure was constructed alongside the academy. The original Phoenix Academy became the headmaster's residence until the academy's closing, when it became a tenant residence. The second Phoenix School was torn down approximately ten years ago.

Like many rural schoolhouses of the period, Phoenix Academy is of the Greek Revival style. It exhibits a pediment, pilasters with Ionic-order scrolls and molding around the door and window frames. The unusually fine application of Greek Revival details to one of the few surviving examples of rural antebellum academies in Georgia makes Phoenix Academy a unique and noteworthy structure.

Turnwold is significant in American literature as the location where Joel Chandler Harris, creator of "Uncle Remus" and other stories depicting Southern plantation life, received inspiration for his literary works. A native of the county, Harris included black dialect in most of his writings which center around plantation life. On the Plantation, published by Harris in 1892, depicts Harris himself, under the name of Joe Maxwell, and specifically describes his arrival at Turnwold and his work on The Countryman, as well as the arrival of Federal soldiers there in 1864.

Turnwold derives literary significance, as well, from the voluminous documentation of daily activity on a Southern plantation provided in the unpublished journal of Joseph Addison Turner, as well as in his numerous published works. These journals, located on microfilm at Emory University in Atlanta, have yet to be fully analyzed in their view of Southern plantation life, but surely place this plantation among the few heavily documented ones in Georgia, if not the entire South.

Since 1866

By the 1880s, as mentioned, the Turner family had limited its occupancy of Turnwold to the widowed daughter of William Turner, Fannie Hubert. After her death, in the early-twentieth century, the part of the land still in the Turner family was sold. The Alexander-Turner House was purchased by the Michael Dunn family in the 1930s and they lived there until selling to T.C. Scales in the 1970s, who sold most recently to Frank McElwaney. The Lane-Turner House and surrounding land is presently owned by J.F. Reese.

[continued]

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 5

Historic Archaeology

Turnwold has significance in historic archaeology due to the fact that through the writings and publications of J.A. Turner, much is known to exist there that is no longer extant. Not only are many outbuildings, beginning with the famed printing shop itself, now gone, but the Phoenix Academy itself replaces an earlier structure and a more recent one has been lost. An article in The Countryman for April 28, 1863, documents the burning of a woodshop and blacksmith's shop, which were probably replaced in order for the plantation to continue. It is material such as this in the newspaper and unpublished journal that make this site a rich one for a future archaeological investigation.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9

Page 2

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[continued]

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9

Page 3

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Collections

Joseph Addison Turner and Joel Chandler Harris collections, original manuscripts, photographs and microfilm, Special Collections, R.W. Woodruff Library, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.