

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JUL 8 1976  
DATE ENTERED OCT 29 1976

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 Cheely-Coleman House *nlw*

AND/OR COMMON  
Coleman House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
*S on Jewell off GA 123 at Ogeechee River*

CITY, TOWN  
*Shoals - Jewell*  VICINITY OF 10th - Robert G. Stephens, Jr.  
STATE Georgia CODE 13 COUNTY Hancock CODE 141

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY  | OWNERSHIP                                   | STATUS  | PRESENT USE                            |   |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT               | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC             | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED                     | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE   | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM                           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                   | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                   | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT                 | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS         | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED              | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC                       |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL    | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION                   |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                           | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Weekend Resort |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. David P. Ginn, Chief Engineer, Thiele Kaolin Company

STREET & NUMBER  
Box 1056

CITY, TOWN Sandersville  VICINITY OF STATE Georgia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hancock County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Sparta STATE Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Hancock County Survey

DATE 9-21-1975  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN Atlanta STATE Georgia

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT                       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                                 RUINS  
 FAIR                                  UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Cheely-Coleman House, often referred to as the Coleman House, is located one and one-half miles east of the intersection of Georgia Highway 248 and s1098 in Hancock County, approximately 100 feet north of s1098. Presently surrounded by about 55 acres of woods and farmland, the two story early nineteenth century frame house (c.1820-25), with an inset primitive, classical two story portico and three different exterior end chimneys, is considered one of the most unique houses of Middle Georgia in plan and detail.

In design, the two story house consists of a gabled roof with boxed cornices and returns and five bays along the eastern facade with the three southern bays forming an inset two story portico supported by three Ionic columns over the Doric columns. The repetitive pierced scallop motif of the eastern facade cornice adds to the primitive character of the building. On the first floor of the third bay is an elliptical arched dogtrot and to its right a curved exterior staircase open to the porch which was originally the only means of access to the southern end of the second story. Under the porch and dogtrot, the walls are sheathed with flush siding, however, the remainder of the house is covered with weatherboard accompanied by corner beads at all edges of the house. Three types of window and door trim are found on the east facade: vertical reeding with crossettes in the upper corners is found on the door and window of the middle bay of the portico and the doors leading into the house from the dogtrot; a projecting lintel with curved edges is found on the two northeast bays of the front porch, and a two part projecting lintel on the remaining windows of the house. The first floor windows are 12-over-12 pane while those on the second are 12-over-8 pane.

The formal and pristine appearance of the west facade leads some to believe it might have originally been the front of the house; however tradition states that the portico facade was the front. The southern facade is dominated by a double hipped end chimney of American bond flanked by a pair of windows on each floor. The northern facade has a pair of "mirror image", single hip American bond chimneys and three apertures on each floor. To the left of the northwestern chimney a door opens onto a twentieth century addition of a small porch with a gabled roof and three supporting wooden posts. Originally this door led on to a covered walkway to the kitchen. There is a partially below ground basement under this northern third of the house.

In plan, the house is a dogtrot with one-over-one room, on the south end, two small rooms over the dogtrot, and two-over-two room plan on the north facade. Originally access to the southern portion of the second floor, or boys dormitory, was attained by a curved staircase which opened onto the first floor porch, just right of the dogtrot. Adjoining the boy's dorm are two smaller rooms, the only ones without a wainscot. The upstairs rooms contain the original wide flooring. Here, as on the first floor are the original cross and bible doors with only one side beveled. The mantelpiece found in the boy's dorm is a 1940, primitively designed replacement for the original one now in the downstairs parlor.

Corresponding, below the dorm room is the parlor which is entered from the dogtrot or a door open to the front porch. The room is decorated by a one inch band of vertical reeding which separates the chair rail from the wainscot. The vertical reeding is repeated in the pilasters of the mantelpiece. The floorboards here and in the rooms across the hall have been changed from wide pine boards to c.1940 narrow oak flooring.

Across the dogtrot from the parlor are two smaller rooms. To the right of the fireplace in the northwest room, an original door leads out onto the previously mentioned side

(continued)

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porch. In the opposite corner, are two sets of straight stairs with winders and one central curved step landing. Originally this staircase was the only access to the northern end bedrooms.

The house was built all at one time, but through the years in favor of modernization, and with the needed repair, changes have been made. A doorway was cut upstairs connecting the northwest bedroom with one of the small rooms adjoining the boy's dorm. The present delicate brass hardware was added in 1940 when the house was being restored. (Most of these changes were made in 1940 when Warren Coleman and his bride came to live in the house).

Although only the house remains today, according to oral tradition and some evidence, outbuildings did exist. There was a barn east of the house along with four other outbuildings and a root cellar to the south. A smokehouse and slave cabin were on the western side of the house. Evidence of old roads that run around and in front of the house down to the shoals, the grist mill and iron foundry can be located on a sketch map. The yard has been cleared, but clues to the previous landscaping remain. Two catawba tree stumps remain on the northern and southern ends of the house. Presently, the house is unoccupied except for weekend outings.

# 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)<br>Historical |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |   |

SPECIFIC DATES

1820-1825

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cheely-Coleman House, and its surrounding 55 acres, is of national significance based on both architectural and historical merits. The house was built c.1820-25, and is a prime example of the sophisticated dwelling which evolved from the basic dogtrot log cabin plan. It is the only one of this refined design in Georgia. Due to the Coleman house's connection with the prominent Coleman and Cheely families, the county's industrial development, and Sherman's march through Georgia, the house may be considered one of the most important houses in Hancock County history.

John Marler is thought to have been the architect of the Cheely-Coleman House, but this tradition is doubtful. Marler was very skilled in the use of Early Republican forms and the primitive use of the Classical details in the Coleman House do not reflect this. An example is the primitive design of the Ionic columns over the first floor Doric columns, where the true orders are not attained. The sequence of column order though is reminiscent of the Roman Coliseum where the orders rise from simple Doric to ornate Corinthian.

The house is located on land originally owned by Robert Tate. In 1805, Tate was granted 250 acres on the banks of the Ogeechee River, in original Washington county, and before his death c.1811-1812, he had accumulated a total of 450 acres.

Thomas Cheely bought the core of the estate in 1818 from Jared Carter to whom the land had been sold by Tate's heirs. This is the earliest record of Thomas Cheely's presence in this county. By 1824 Cheely had accumulated approximately 801 acres of land from the heirs of Tate or from persons the heirs sold to, plus other nearby lots.

Cheely married Leah Latimer in 1815 in Hancock County and probably proceeded to build the present homeplace. It would seem possible that they might have lived in a nearby stagecoach stop, referred to as the Lee House, until their house was built, only a few years later.

Across the river from the Tate estate was Col. William Bird's home the "Aviary". Hunter Coleman later built his home on this spot facing the Cheely-Coleman House, and the Hunter Coleman House is thought to have been very similar to it. The Birds owned a woolen mill and iron foundry on the shoals. Thomas Cheely built a gristmill on the shoals also. Tradition states that at some point Cheely came in to possession of Bird's Mill & Foundry.

At Cheely's death he gave his married heirs \$2,000 in land and money and kept his estate together for his wife and four young sons until they were all 21 years of age. Since that time, with only one brief exception (the Dardens), the Coleman House has remained in some phase of the Cheely-Coleman family. In 1973 the last Coleman owner sold the house outside the family to the present owner.

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Ginn, David, Interview, April 15, 1976, near Sparta, Georgia.  
 Linley, John. Architecture of Middle Georgia: The Oconee Area. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1972.  
 Norton, Nancy, Inspection, April 15, 1976, near Sparta, Georgia.  
 Moore, Mrs. Warren, Phone Interview, April 20, 1976.  
 Smith, Elizabeth Wiley, The History of Hancock County, Georgia I,II. Washington, Ga.: Wilkes Publishing Company 1974.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 55.85

UTM REFERENCES

|             |             |                     |                |               |  |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|--|
| <u>3680</u> |             |                     |                |               |  |
| A           | <u>1,17</u> | <u>3,3,6,5,8,10</u> | <u>3,8,8,0</u> | <u>5,7,10</u> |  |
|             | ZONE        | EASTING             | NORTHING       |               |  |
| B           | <u>1,17</u> | <u>3,3,5,7,8,0</u>  | <u>3,6,7,9</u> | <u>9,6,0</u>  |  |
|             | ZONE        | EASTING             | NORTHING       |               |  |
| C           | <u>1,17</u> | <u>3,3,5,6,8,10</u> | <u>3,6,8,0</u> | <u>0,4,10</u> |  |
|             | ZONE        | EASTING             | NORTHING       |               |  |
| D           | <u>1,17</u> | <u>3,3,6,0,0,0</u>  | <u>3,8,8,0</u> | <u>7,4,10</u> |  |
|             | ZONE        | EASTING             | NORTHING       |               |  |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

3680

The Coleman property is bounded in the northeast corner by the intersection of s1098 and the Ogeechee River. From this point the boundary runs west along the Ogeechee River for approximately 600 yards at which point it turns south and undulates for approximately 700 yards along a branch which separates the Coleman property from the Tufts property. At this point the boundary turns sharply east for 537' until it intersects with s1098. From this point the boundary follows s1098 north to the beginning point at the Ogeechee.

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

|               |         |                 |          |
|---------------|---------|-----------------|----------|
| STATE Georgia | CODE 13 | COUNTY Warren   | CODE 301 |
| Georgia       | 13      | Hancock         | 141      |
| STATE Georgia | CODE 13 | COUNTY Glascock | CODE 125 |

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nancy Norton, Intern (Elizabeth Z. Macgregor, Architectural Historian, Consultant)

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources

March 14, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

270 Washington Street, S.W., Room 703-C

404-656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Atlanta

Georgia

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

DAVID M. SHERMAN

DATE

TITLE

Chief, Historic Preservation Section

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

10/29/96

ATTEST:

DATE

10/26/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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The Coleman House was used by Major-General Judson Kilpatrick as his headquarters during Sherman's march through Georgia, in 1864. The general did not harm the house itself though the mills and livestock were destroyed. On his bedroom wall he engraved the following,

"May all the names engraved here,  
In the golden book appear."

It is signed by the general and some of his staff. This engraved plaster is currently in the possession of a former owner.

Although the house is virtually unoccupied, it is well maintained and remains of great significance in the history of Georgia and its architecture.

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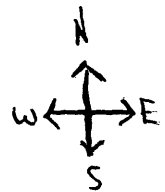
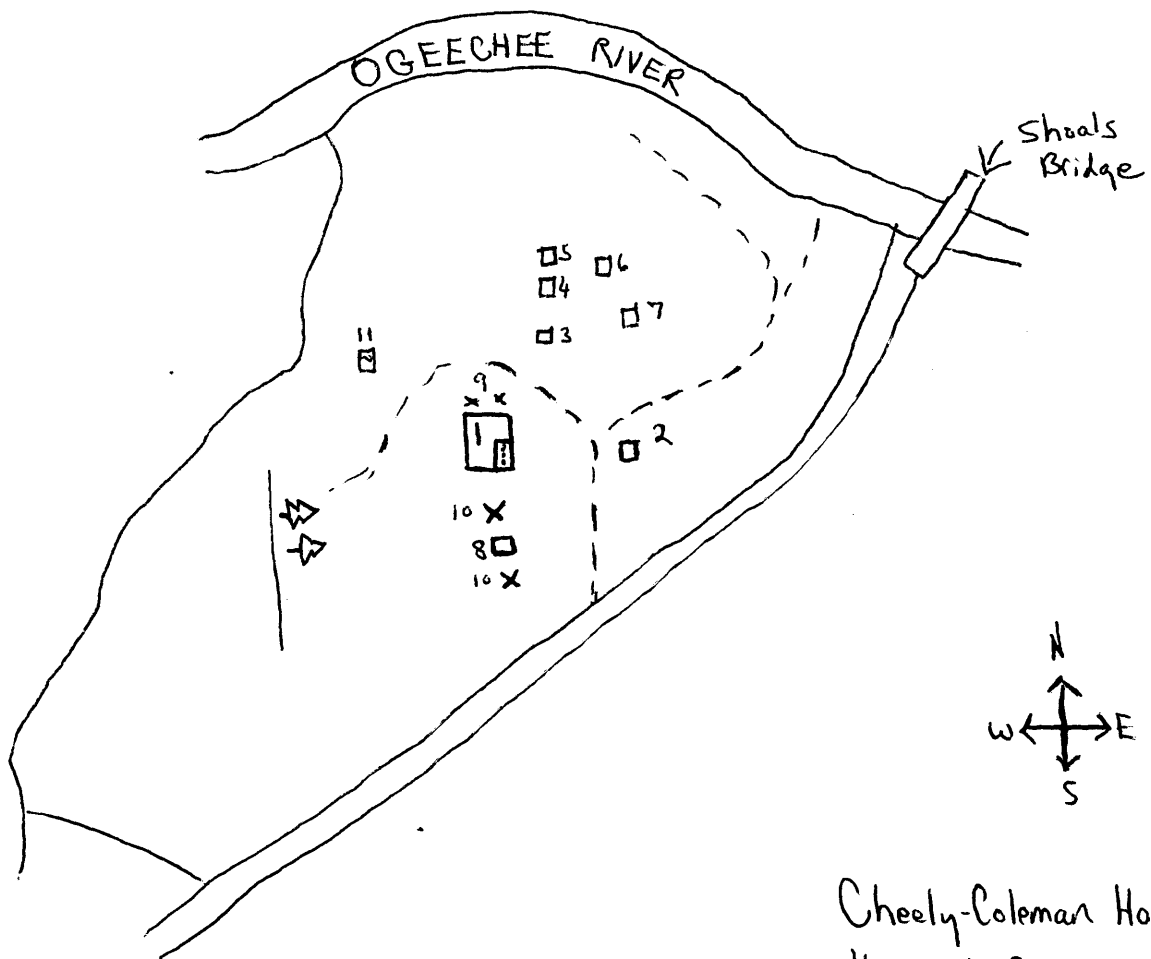
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Cheely-Coleman House, Hancock County

Photographs by: David J. Kaminsky

Date: April, 1976.

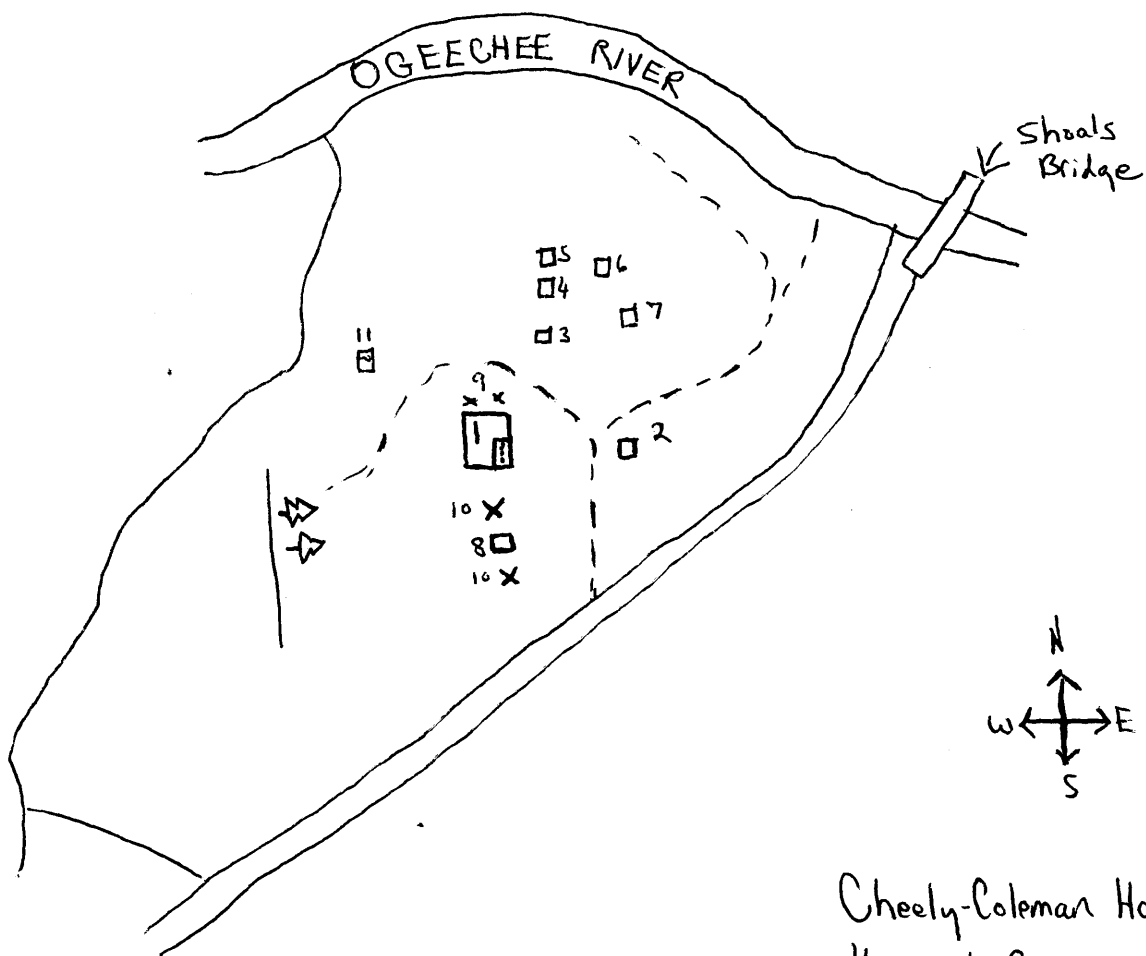
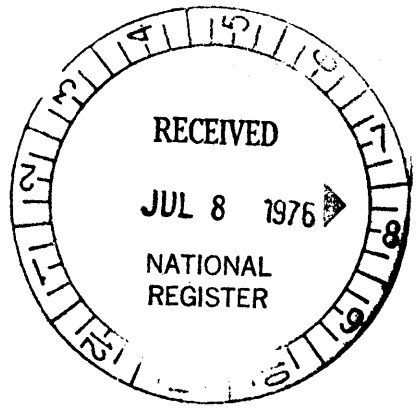
1. Southeast view of house.
2. East (front) facade.
3. Second floor (south end) of East facade.
4. Mantelpiece, First Floor, southroom (parlor).
5. Stairway from dogtrot, facing northeast.
6. Dogtrot from east.
7. Staircase in Northwest room - 1st floor.
8. Northwest view of house.



Cheely-Coleman House  
Hancock Co.

- ① Coleman House
- ② Barn
- ③ outbldg - rock base
- ④ Well
- ⑤ outbldg -
- ⑥ outbldg - 12' rock base
- ⑦ outbldg 18' 15' rock base
- ⑧ root cellar
- ⑨ catwaba trees (2)
- ⑩ oak tree
- ⑪ slave cabin (in that general vicinity)





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