

**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 J.H. Carmichael Farm and General Store

and/or common Carmichael House

**2. Location** SE of Smyrna at

street & number 501 Log Cabin Road \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Smyrna Ga. \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 7th-Larry McDonald

state Georgia code 013 county Cobb code 067

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name <sup>(a)</sup> J.V. Carmichael Estate, c/o Mrs. Earl Williams <sup>(b)</sup> Mr. Joseph S. Williams

street & number <sup>(a)</sup> 35 Hillside Avenue <sup>(b)</sup> 501 Log Cabin Road

city, town <sup>(a)</sup> Marietta <sup>(b)</sup> Smyrna \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ a) Georgia 30060  
state b) Georgia 30080

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Cobb County Courthouse

city, town Marietta state Georgia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title None [See continuation sheet.] has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The J.H. Carmichael Farm and General Store is located on Log Cabin Road near the intersection of Interstate 285 and State Route 3. The nominated property consists of a Victorian farmhouse, a twentieth-century commercial building, several agricultural outbuildings, and Civil War breastworks, cleared fields, and a wooded ravine. The nominated property includes approximately thirty-eight acres.

The J.H. Carmichael house, built in 1884, displays architectural features indicative of the Victorian period. Originally built as a one-story Victorian cottage, the Carmichael family enlarged the house in 1908 to its present size and appearance. The white-frame structure has a brick pier and stone foundation. A one-story porch, partially screened, spans the front facade of the house. Several windows on the front facade have stained glass. The house has two interior chimneys. A square tower with windows is centrally located on the front facade. The rear of the house is irregularly massed. A rear porch has been enclosed to allow for bath facilities and a utility area. The interior of the Carmichael house is primarily Victorian in design. The floor plan is asymmetrical. The ornamentation is reflective of the Victorian period, as seen in the door and window frames and mantles, one of which has tapestry in the overmantle.

Southwest of the Carmichael house is the Carmichael Building. Built in 1914-1915, the commercial building is constructed of brick that is presently painted white. The building has a corbelled cornice and segmented brick arches over the windows. The windows have burglar bars. The attached ell is original to the building. The front facade of the Carmichael Building originally had a shed porch but it has been removed.

There are several agricultural outbuildings that surround the Carmichael house. West of the house is a large barn, a corn crib, and another farm building. Directly behind the house to the north are several farm-associated buildings, such as an implement shed and wood shed. Northeast of the house is a servant's quarters. All of the outbuildings are frame. The majority of the outbuildings are currently used in the farming operation but a few of the buildings have fallen into a state of disrepair.

Also located on the property are a commercial building adjacent to the Carmichael Building and a small twentieth-century rental house. These structures do not contribute to the historical significance of the property.

The landscape of the Carmichael Farm and General Store has changed due to urban development. The only formal landscaping are the elm trees lining the front walk. While some of the land is currently cultivated, most of the land is forested. Behind the Carmichael house is a forested ravine. A rock springhouse is located in this ravine.

[continued]

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1884, 1908

Builder/Architect

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The J.H. Carmichael Farm and General Store is significant to the architectural, agricultural, commercial and local history of Cobb County and Georgia. Architecturally, the farm complex exhibits building types and techniques of the late-nineteenth/early-twentieth century. It is one of the few such complexes that has escaped urban development in Cobb County. The complex served as an agricultural and commercial center for the community that surrounded the Carmichael house and farm. The general store offered services to nearby neighbors. James Vinson Carmichael and the 1946 Georgia gubernatorial race were instrumental in bringing forth the demise of the county unit system of voting.

The Carmichael farm and general store display several types of building types and techniques. The Carmichael house, built in 1884 and enlarged ca. 1908, displays architectural qualities of the Victorian period. The assymetrical facade and floor plan and interior ornamentation are indicative of Victorian architecture. The Carmichael Building, built 1914-15, displays qualities of rural commercial architecture, such as the segmental brick arches and corbelled brick cornice. It remains virtually unaltered. The agricultural outbuildings are reflective of building types and techniques common to the area. Each outbuilding was constructed to fulfill a specific function necessary to the operation of the farm. These buildings assisted the Carmichael family in the operation of a rather self-sufficient farm. It is significant that the complex remains intact and retains its residential, agricultural, and commercial atmosphere. It is one of a few such complexes that have escaped urban development in Cobb County.

The Carmichael farm and general store are agriculturally significant in that it maintains an agricultural tradition despite the encroachment of urban development. After moving his family from Atlanta to the rural Smyrna area in the early 1880s, J.H. Carmichael established a farm that is partially under cultivation today. His self-sufficient farm produced corn and sugar cane, as well as beef and pork. Each of these was processed on the farm. The Carmichael farm was a representative farm in Smyrna, but much of the farmland has been subdivided and is not under cultivation. At present, a garden behind the Carmichael Building has been established and thus enables the Carmichael farm and general store to partially retain its rural agricultural atmosphere.

Significant to the commercial history of the area, the Carmichael farm and general store offered a variety of services to the neighboring farmers. A general store was originally operated by the Carmichael family in a frame building in front

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**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

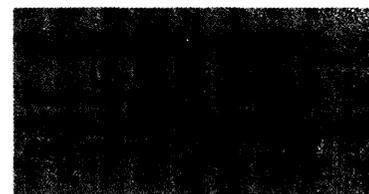
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Civil War breastworks are located northeast of the Carmichael house. They are a portion of General Joseph Johnston's line, the Confederate defense system for Atlanta during the Civil War.

Once located on the property were several structures concerning the operation of the farm and commercial business. The original Carmichael General Store, a small, wood-framed building, was located directly in front of the Carmichael house. A cotton gin was also located on the property.

**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

of the Carmichael house. Merchandise of all types and varieties was sold. This general store was a community center as neighbors gathered and discussed community news. The general store was moved into the Carmichael Building after its construction in 1914-1915. J.H. Carmichael also operated a cotton gin in which he processed cotton for his neighbors. Another Carmichael venture involved a wagon yard for overnight travelers, since the farm and general store was almost the only such complex located on the Dixie Highway between Smyrna and Atlanta during the late-nineteenth/early-twentieth century. Also stimulating commercial growth on the Carmichael farm and general store complex was the construction of the trolley line connecting Atlanta and rural Cobb County in 1905. The trolley lines were located on land near the Carmichael Building that was donated by the Carmichael family. This encouraged travel in the area of the farm and general store and, as a result, the general store was maintained for a larger constituency. It operated until recently and now is currently rented for commercial use.

The Carmichael farm and general store is significant in politics and government as the home of James Vinson Carmichael, grandson of J.H. Carmichael. A candidate for governor in 1946, attorney J.V. Carmichael and his opponents were involved in the election that was a component in the demise of the county unit system of voting in Georgia. Former Governors Eugene Talmadge and E.D. Rivers, and Carmichael were the major candidates. As a result of an endorsement by incumbent Governor Ellis Arnall, hard work and determination, in the Democratic primary election, J.V. Carmichael received forty-six percent of the popular vote, the largest percentage of popular votes ever received by a gubernatorial candidate in Georgia up to that time in a primary. Talmadge received forty-four percent and Rivers received ten percent of the vote. However, due to the county unit system, the election was decided in favor of Eugene Talmadge. In this system of voting, the 159 Georgia counties were divided as follows: the eight largest counties were allowed six unit votes, while the next thirty largest counties maintained four votes each. The remaining 121 counties commanded two unit votes. The key to winning or losing an election lay in the small counties' unit votes. In the 1946 election, Carmichael won the popular vote and was defeated by the county unit system of voting. Talmadge received 242 votes, while Carmichael received 146 and Rivers received 22; Talmadge became the governor-elect of Georgia. This election was instrumental in the demise of the county unit system of voting in Georgia. Several attempts were made during the 1940s and 1950s to have the system declared unconstitutional by federal courts. The courts refused to render a decision on the grounds that primary elections concerned political parties and were not within the jurisdiction of the court. This policy was reversed in 1962 when the U.S. Supreme Court declared the county unit system unconstitutional in a case involving another state. This decision also applied to Georgia.

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**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

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Incidental to the primary focus of this nomination, Civil War breastworks are located behind the Carmichael house. The military significance of these breastworks should be considered in context with other Civil War fortifications in the Atlanta area.

No formal archaeology has been reported for the Carmichael farm and general store. Knowledge of previous structures is available through old photographs and oral family tradition. Knowledge of these former structures is important to the understanding of the farm complex.

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Repres. in Existing Surveys  
Continuation sheet & Bibliography

Item number 6 & 9

Page 2

(6) Representation in Existing Surveys

The Carmichael Farm and General Store was determined eligible for the National Register on March 21, 1979, following the preparation of a determination of eligibility requested by the Georgia Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration. The determination of eligibility recognizes the architectural merit of the farm complex, as well as its contributions to the local history of the Smyrna area. The applicable criteria included A and C.

(9) Major Bibliographical References

Cloues, Richard, and Ginn, Kacy. Personal inspection, February 11, 1980.

Marietta Daily Journal, November 9, 1975.

Rawson, Charles A., Papers. Atlanta Historical Society.

Roan, Caroline. Two Historic Sites: A Log Cabin and a Victorian Farm House. Social Science Fair Project, February, 1980, unpublished (copy located in the nomination file).

Telephone conversation with Mrs. Earl Williams of Marietta, February 25, 1980.

Williamson, John W. "Project M-9003(2) and M-9003(3), Cobb and Fulton Counties, Georgia. Discussion of Eligibility and Assessment of Impact to Cultural Resources: The Carmichael House." (unpublished) Georgia Department of Transportation, 1978 (copy located in the nomination file).