NO. 2

IDENTIFICATION

PROPERTY NAME: Davis House

HISTORIC NAME: Rivers Farm

STREET ADDRESS: Rome Street

CITY: Cave Spring

PRESENT OWNER: Martha S. Davis

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 117

CITY: Cave Spring

STATE: Georgia

ZIP CODE: 30124

CURRENT USE: Residence

ACREAGE: 66

U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE Cedartown West, Ga.

U.T.M. REFERENCE: 2A Z.16 E653805 N3776090 2B Z.16 E653740 N3775700

2C Z.16 E653050 N3776700

V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: 818-20

2D Z.16 E653050 N3776080

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION: Vernacular Greek Revival-style plantation house with rectangular plan, two stories, low hip roof, interior rear-wall chimneys, recessed front porch, and shed-like rear extension; constructed of braced timber frame, on piers, sheathed with weatherboard; three-bay front facade with one-story colonade of square piers and flush siding; interior features variation of four-over-four with central stair hall, offset per side elevation; situated on level ground adjacent to Little Cedar Creek; grounds feature large hardwood trees, shrubbery, and lawn, plus winding dirt driveway; several wood-frame agricultural outbuildings to northwest; [continued]

ORIGINAL OWNER: Joseph Rivers

ORIGINAL USE: Farm

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

HISTORIC ACREAGE:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1850

DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT) (OPTIONAL): Property was first developed as a farm and has been in agricultural use ever since.

N.R. AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, landscape architec- LEVEL: Local ture, exploration and settlement, agriculture.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL): Architecturally, this house is significant as an example of vernacularized Greek Revival architecture. Such interpretations of high-style architecture by local builders are common in the Georgia countryside; this one, with its boxy massing, recessed porch, and rear shed, is unusual.

In terms of landscape architecture, the property is significant for its setting, surrounded by cleared floodplain fields, which is representative of the character and appearance of the historic rural landscape in the outlying reaches of the multiple-resource area. The location of the house in such close proximity to the creek is unusual, however; most early houses were situated on higher, drier ground. [continued]

FORM PREPARED BY:

Richard Cloues

ORGANIZATION: Historic Preservation Section Ga. Dept. of Natural Resources

Kacy Ginn

ADDRESS: 270 Washington St., S.W., Atlanta TELEPHONE NUMBER: 404-656-2840

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: Historic Structures Field Survey: Floyd Co. Ga.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Preliminary survey forms by Diane Dawson, Cave Spring; see bibliography (section 9) for general sources.



PHOTOGRAPHER: James R. Lockhart

DATE: February 1980

PHOGRAPH NO. 2 (NEGATIVE NO. 2) NEGATIVES FILED: GA. DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES of 40
DIRECTION PHOTOGRAPHER FACING: northwest

USE SPACE BELOW FOR CONTINUATION FROM FRONT, SKETCH PLANS OR MAPS, ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, ETC.

II. cont.: surrounded by cleared floodplain fields except for trees along creek; good condition.

IV. cont.: In terms of <u>landscape</u> <u>architecture</u>, the property is significant for its setting, including the large trees and lawn around the house, surrounded by cleared flood-plain fields, which is representative of the character and appearance of the historic rural landscape in the outlying reaches of the multiple-resource area. The location of the house in such close proximity to the creek is unusual, however; most early houses were situated on higher, drier ground.

Agriculturally, the property is significant in that it represents the kind of plantation first established in this part of the state during the early- to mid-19th century. This property was originally much larger, and assumed its present proportions during the 19th century, when these large early landholdings were broken down into more workable sizes.

In terms of <u>exploration</u> and <u>settlement</u>, the property is significant for representing the kind of development that occurred throughout the countryside after this land was opened to white settlement in 1832.