

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

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 Summers Plantation
other names/site number Cooper House, Long, William, Plantation

2. Location

street & number 475 Lee Road 181 NA not for publication
city, town Opelika vicinity
state Alabama code AL county Lee code 081 zip code 36801

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>3</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>2</u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>6</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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 request for determination of eligibility 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 does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
[Signature] 1-4-91
Signature of certifying official Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

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 and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Entered in the National Register
[Signature] 2/21/91
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwellingAGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE:agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwellingOTHER: wildlife reserve

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONEwalls WOODroof METALother BRICKCONCRETE

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Situated on a knoll facing west and resting on stone, brick, and concrete piers, the Summers Plantation house is a one-story, frame (hand-hewn or pit-sawed) dwelling with an irregular plan and roofline (sheet metal over wood shingles). Three brick and fieldstone chimneys project from the roof. Most of the wood-lapped siding is original.

The front (east) facade displays a Greek Revival entranceway with double doors, sidelights (three lights on each side) and a transom (five lights). Wainscotting follows the front facade. The front gable has return cornices. Beneath the gable is a bay with a pyramidal roof and one rectangular window (6/6 sash). A shed roof porch wraps around the east and south facades and is joined at the southeast corner by a gazebo. The porch columns and the balustrade are not original.

Fenestration on the south (side) facade includes seven rectangular windows (the three original windows have 6/6 sash; the four newer ones in the wing have 1/1 sash). A brick and fieldstone chimney is located between two of the windows (which have retained their original shutters). Fenestration on the north (side) facade includes four rectangular windows (6/6 sash) and one small window located toward the rear. A small brick chimney projects from the roof on the north side.

The west (rear) facade displays a three-part composition (one section with a hip roof; another crowned by a gable roof with return cornice; and a central section with pedimented gable roof). The recessed Greek Revival entranceway has double doors (which are later than the front doors) and is flanked by sidelights (three lights on each side) and crowned by a transom (five lights). Another entrance (single door) is crowned by a 6/6 sash window. The rear porch is covered with a sheet metal shed roof. Fenestration on the rear facade also includes seven other rectangular windows (two not original). A brick and fieldstone chimney is located between two of the windows (which have 1/1 sash).

The basic interior layout includes a central hall with a remodeled kitchen wing located to the south. Wainscotting and wood paneling is displayed in the central hall and front parlor. The four wood mantels in the house are intact. The elegant Federal-style fireplaces in the parlor and study have fluted pilasters. Most of the floors are tongue and groove pine that is 1-1/4 inches thick and 6 inches wide. The central hall and dining room have 1 inch thick X 4 inch wide dressed tongue and groove pine added to the basic flooring of the house. The original plaster in the central hall and the three south bedrooms is intact. The bathroom has a footed bathtub.

Other surviving structures on the property include a large frame barn (early 20th century) with a fieldstone foundation, an old frame buggy house (late 19th century) two frame, L-shaped labor cottages (both late 19th century) and a small family cemetery.

 See continuation sheet

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

INTEGRITY:

The Summers Plantation house has retained its original integrity of location, design, setting, material, workmanship, feeling and association. The basic shape, form and plan of the dwelling (as remodeled c. 1870) have been retained as well as most of the exterior siding and fenestration (except in the kitchen). Many interior features are also original including the wainscoting and wood paneling, the four mantels, the pine floors and some of the original plaster. Alterations to the house include a new balustrade and porch columns, and a totally remodeled kitchen which included new windows.

The barn and buggy house have been stabilized, but the two labor cottages are in poor condition.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL:

Although no formal archaeological survey has been made of the Summers Plantation, the potential for significant sub-surface cultural remains is high. Plantation houses did not exist in vacuums but were sited within a constellation of dependencies and activity areas such as kitchens, privies, wells, etc. Although many of these structures are no longer standing, the buried portions may contain significant information that may be important in interpreting the entire property.

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) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1837-1870

Significant Dates

c. 1837
c. 1869

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

Long, William, Builder, c. 1837
Summers, John, Builder, c. 1869

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

CRITERION C (Architecture):

Significant under Criterion C (Architecture), the Summers Plantation House represents the architectural evolution of an early plantation house in the Piedmont region of Alabama. William Long constructed the original section of the house around 1837, distinguishing it as one of the oldest residences in Lee County. The original core of the house consisted of three rooms which are now used as the front parlor, the central hall, and a laundry room. Evidence of the original house includes the gable roof on the north facade, two Federal-style mantels with fluted pilasters, fine wainscoting, and wide paneling on the parlor walls and ceiling, and a Greek Revival entrance (with double doors, sidelights and a transom) on the west (front) facade. In 1869, John Summers purchased the plantation and added three bedrooms, a large central hall, and a kitchen connected to the house by a breezeway. It appears as though the west entrance was moved about two feet to the south in order to give the front facade a more symmetrical appearance (this may have been done around 1870). Another entranceway, very similar to that of the front, was also added to the east (rear) facade.

The basic shape, form and plan of the dwelling, as remodeled in 1870, have been retained as well as most of the exterior siding and fenestration (except in the kitchen).

CRITERION EXCEPTION D:

The family cemetery is a contributing resource because it is an integral part of the history of the plantation. Dating from the mid-19th century, this small cemetery contains several graves of early members of the Long family. Only a few weather-worn tombstones remain today.

9. Major Bibliographical References

A Summers Family History 1650-1989. Written by Carl Summers, Jr., 1989

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 160 acres

UTM References

A

1	6	6	6	1	6	0	0	3	6	1	6	1	3	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

1	6	6	6	2	3	9	0	3	6	1	6	1	3	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

1	6	6	6	1	6	2	0	3	6	1	5	2	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

1	6	6	6	2	3	9	0	3	6	1	5	2	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is contained within the legal description, as recorded in the tax assessor's office, Opelika, Alabama: NE 1/4 Section 6, Township 19 North, Range 28 East.

For exact boundaries, please refer to tax assessor's map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Summers Plantation reflect the boundaries of the land originally purchased by Sphiyike, a Creek Indian, from the United States Government around 1832.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Melanie A. Betz/Architectural Historian

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date October 2, 1990

street & number 725 Monroe Street

telephone 205 242-3184

city or town Montgomery

state Alabama zip code 36130

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1 Summers Plantation

HISTORICAL SUMMARY:

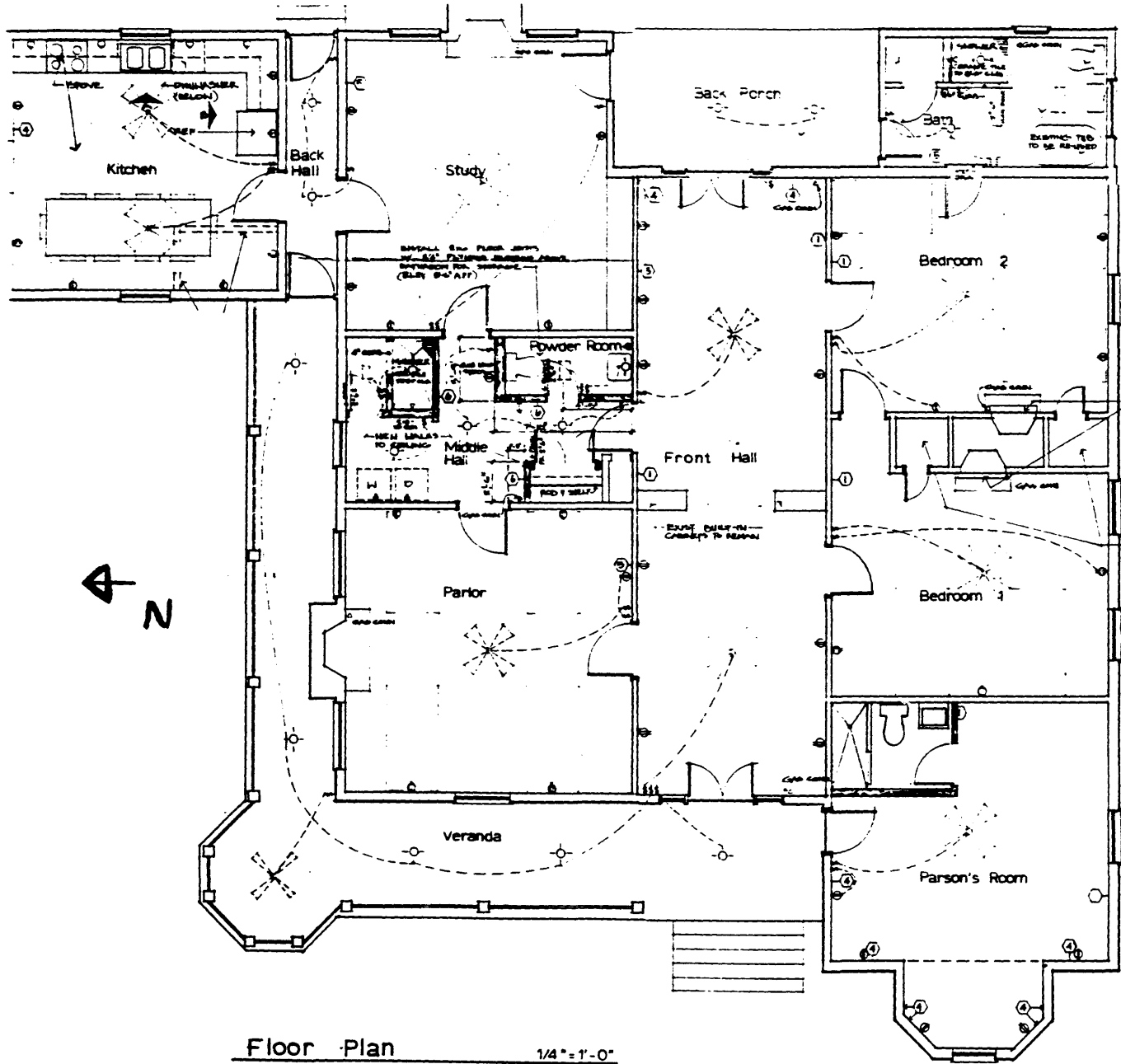
The land on which the house is located was deeded to a Creek Indian named Sphiyike by the United States Government around 1832. Sphiyike sold it to Nat Macon Thornton on April 3, 1834, who in turn sold it to William Long on April 16, 1837. Shortly after purchasing the property, Long constructed the core section of the house. Before the Civil War he lost his wife and some children, who are buried near the house. On September 28, 1869, he sold the property to John Summers (1844-1896) and his wife, Rebecca Lenora McClendon of West Point, Georgia. Summers added three bedrooms, a large central hall, and a kitchen connected to the breezeway.

John and Rebecca Summers and their eight children had a prosperous plantation which included cotton, wheat, corn, cattle, a blacksmith shop (demolished), and a store (demolished). After Rebecca Summers died on January 11, 1926, the house was occupied by her daughter, Berta Summers. In the spring of 1954, she sold the house to Arthur W. Cooper and his wife Dorothy Summers Cooper, granddaughter of John and Rebecca Summers. The house was used for storage until 1988 when the Coopers started restoring the building.

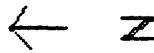
Currently occupied by two wildlife biologists, the old Summers Plantation House will be eventually used as the headquarters for the Little Halawakee Wildlife Reserve.

SUMMERS PLANTATION HOUSE

OPELIKA VICINITY ALABAMA

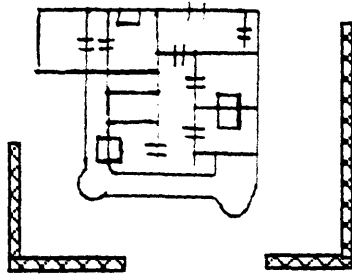


Not To Scale

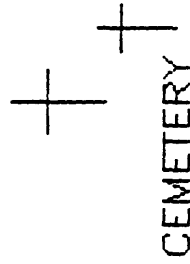


BUGGY HOUSE

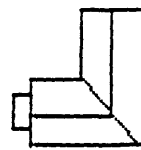
STONE
RETAINING
WALL



HOUSE



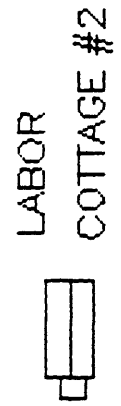
CEMETERY



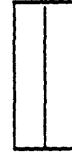
LABOR
COTTAGE #1

SUMMERS PLANTATION

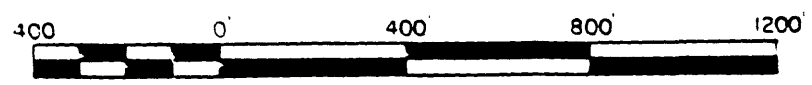
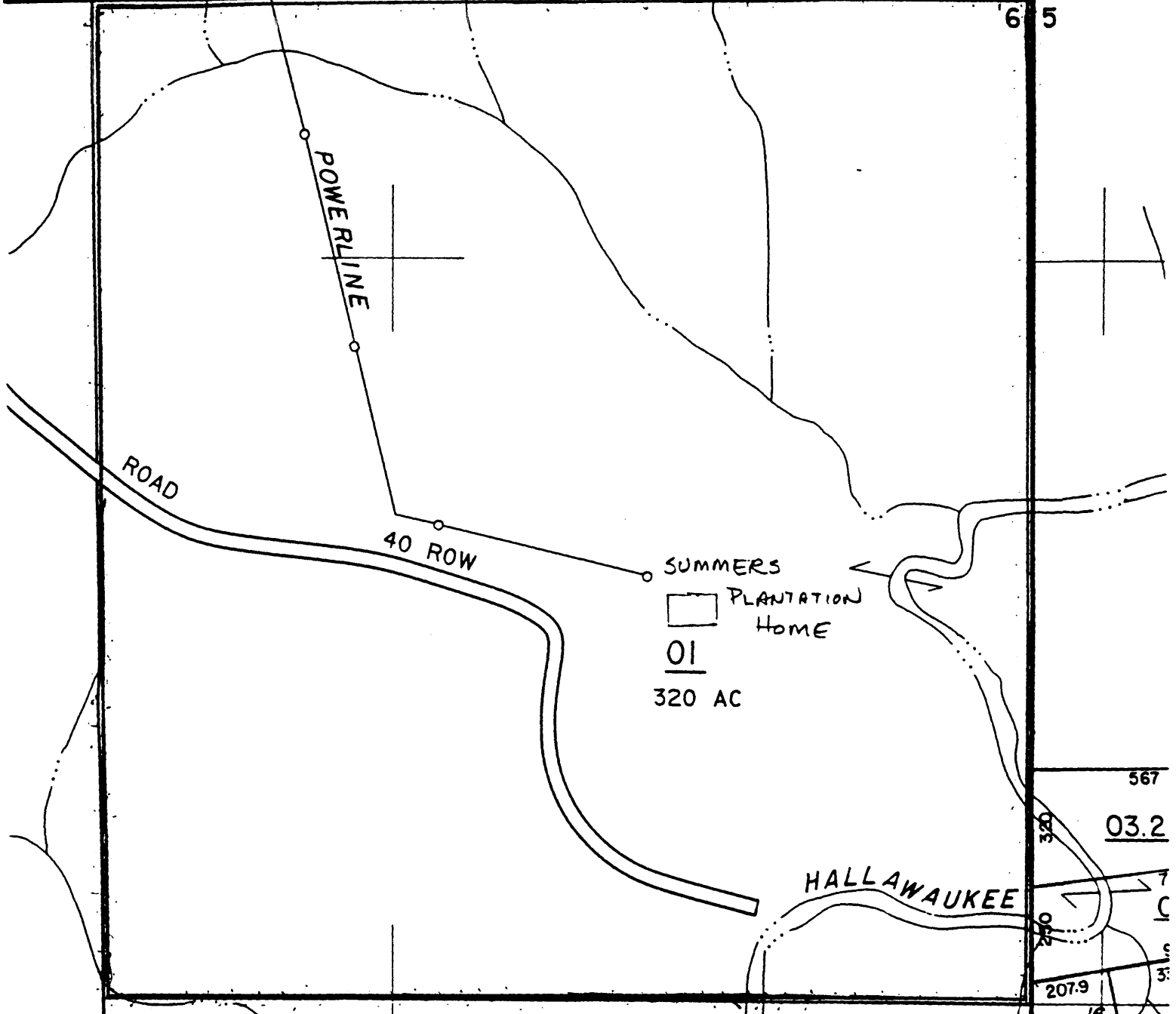
Opelika vicinity, Alabama



LABOR
COTTAGE #2



BARN



SCALE: 1"=400'

DATE OF MAP: SEP. 15, 1978 DATE OF PHOTOGRAPHY: FEB - MAR 1974



Summers Plantation
 Opauka vic., AL
 Lee County

SECTIONS 5,6,7,8

TOWNSHIP 19 N

RANGE 28 E

43-11-03

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number photo-
graphs Page 1 Summers Plantation

Information in items 1 - 5 is the same for all photographs listed except for photograph no. 2 the photographer is unknown and the date of photograph is 1895.

1. Summers Plantation, 475 Lee Road 181
2. Opelika, Lee County, Alabama
3. Carl Summers, Jr.
4. January 10, 1990
5. Alabama Historical Commission

Photo No. 1

6. Front of house, facing east

Photo No. 2

6. John Summers family and house as it was in 1895, facing east

Photo No. 3

6. North side of house, facing south

Photo No. 4

6. South side of house, facing north

Photo No. 5

6. Back of house, facing west

Photo No. 6

6. Rock pillars and flower pit

Photo No. 7

6. Front porch and gazebo connecting front and side porch

Photo No. 8

6. Gate in stone wall

Photo No. 9

6. Front door of house

Photo No. 10

6. Grand hall and inside of front door facing west

Photo No. 11

6. Mantel and windows in front parlor

Photo No. 12

6. Mantel and fireplace in middle bedroom

Photo No. 13

6. Bathroom

Photo No. 14

6. Dining area in kitchen

Photo No. 15

6. Kitchen

Photo No. 16

6. Barn

Photo No. 17

6. Buggy house

Photo No. 18

6. Long cemetery

Photo No. 19

6. Labor Cottage #1, facing north

Photo No. 20

6. Labor Cottage #2, facing north