

1305

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM**

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 William Chambers House  
other names/site number

**2. Location**

street & number Georgia State Route 51  
city, town Homer (X) vicinity of  
county Banks code 011  
state Georgia code GA zip code 30547

(N/A) not for publication

**3. Classification**

**Ownership of Property:**

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

**Category of Property**

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property:**

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	2	1
sites	0	0
structures	1	1
objects	0	0
total	3	2

**Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0**

**Name of related multiple property listing:** Historic Resources along the Old Federal Road in Georgia's Banks and Franklin Counties, c.1805-1946.

**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 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 the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

*Mark Edwards*

Signature of certifying official

*10/07/96*  
Date

Mark R. Edwards  
State Historic Preservation Officer,  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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 or bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

*Edson H. Beall* *11.7.96*

Entered in the  
National Register

( ) determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

( ) determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

( ) removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

( ) other, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) see continuation sheet \_\_\_\_\_

Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

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## **6. Function or Use**

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### **Historic Functions:**

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
COMMERCIAL/store

### **Current Functions:**

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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## **7. Description**

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### **Architectural Classification:**

OTHER/Central hallway

### **Materials:**

**foundation**    concrete block  
**walls**            wood/weatherboard  
**roof**             asphalt shingle  
**other**

### **Description of present and historic physical appearance:**

The Chambers House is a Central Hallway with an attached kitchen ell to the rear. It is a one-story, three-bay white clapboard house with white stuccoed end chimneys, a drop shed porch roof, a steep centered front gable and an asphalt shingle roof.

The front door has a square pane of glass surrounded by smaller colored panes over two horizontal panels. The front hall and living room have diagonal narrow beaded tongue-and-groove wainscotting. The floors have carpet over 6 inch pine boards. All windows are 6/6. The ceilings in the two front rooms, hall, and bedroom on the right are 10 feet high. A bath has been added in the shed room, a wall removed in the kitchen, the kitchen fireplace has been replaced, and the long side porch has been enclosed as a sun room. All the doors were originally grained. There is a trap door on the enclosed porch over a 4 foot pit with a rope and bucket, originally used for keeping food cool.

The original Nail Creek Church was moved to its current location, directly east of the house, in 1910 to be used as a store. The double four-panel doors are the original front doors of the church. There is a variety of old agricultural equipment outside the store.

The well house is a replacement, but the original windlass and bucket, with a plow point on its edge to make it tip, are still extant.

All the buildings are in excellent condition and are grouped in close proximity to the William H. Chambers House. The yard is landscaped and has many large trees. Stones from the old kitchen fireplace have been used for a wall in the back yard.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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**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):**     N/A

A     B     C     D     E     F     G

**Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):**

ARCHITECTURE  
COMMERCE

**Period of Significance:**

c. 1906-1946

**Significant Dates:**

c. 1906, c. 1910

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

Unknown

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**Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:**

**Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)**

Architecture

The William Chambers House is significant in architecture for its c. 1906 farmhouse and its associated commercial building. The house is an good example of an early 20th-century central hallway house type, a one-story, one-room-deep house with central hallway. The store is an unusual example of an early 20th-century commercial building originally built for other purposes and then moved and adaptively used as a store.

Commerce

The property is significant in commerce for the commercial activity that took place in the store. William Chambers (b.1880) owned a small farm and was a subsistence farmer, growing corn, oats, wheat, and vegetables and raising livestock to sustain his family. To supplement this income, Chambers operated a general merchandise store on his property from 1910 to 1935, when he was forced to close the store due to the Depression. His store is one of three still standing within the Old Federal Road area. He sold a variety of basic household items and agricultural-related goods to the residents of surrounding communities. After closing the store, Chambers began trucking produce to various markets for sale, and then began poultry farming.

**National Register Criteria**

The Chambers House meets National Register Criteria C as it embodies distinctive characteristics of vernacular building traditions of Piedmont Georgia in the early 20th century. The property also meets National Register Criteria A, for its association with commercial events along the Old Federal Road in Banks and Franklin Counties.

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

**Period of significance (justification, if applicable)**

The period of significance for the William Chambers House begins with the construction of the house c. 1906 and ends in 1946, the end of the historic period.

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**Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

The contributing buildings and well were constructed within the period of significance and maintain integrity. The two noncontributing resources either were constructed after 1946 or have lost historic integrity.

**Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)**

The William Chambers House was built c. 1906 by William Harvey Chambers and his wife Minnie Garrison Chambers. Its site is that of an earlier Plantation Plain house that William's mother, Julie Ann Gillespie Chambers, had lived in and which had been destroyed by fire prior to the construction of the present house. Julie Ann (b. 1861) was the great-granddaughter of Revolutionary War veterans Lowry Gillespie and Jedediah Garrison. She married John Calvin Chambers (b. 1858), and their son, William, was born in 1880. The site is a portion of land granted for Lowry Gillespie's Revolutionary War service.

The house was one of the first in the area to have running water, supplied by a 30-foot water tower on 8" x 8" posts, but there was no bathroom in the house.

William Harvey Chambers operated a general merchandise store in the old Nails Creek Church from about 1910 until 1935. The store building was much larger and closer to the road than it is now. There was a chimney on the back where the office was located. The store sold fertilizer and general merchandise and had a gas tank on the old front porch. Mr. Chambers would take cotton in payment for goods. His son, Hoyt Chambers, can remember seeing as many as 100 bales of cotton accumulated on the property.

When the depression hit, William Harvey Chambers went broke as the farmers could not pay their debts to him. He had farmed while running the store, and after closing the store he turned all his attention to farming. The old church building was used for storage. He began transporting peaches to Milledgeville and Macon, and apples from the North Carolina mountains to middle Georgia. The mule barn was rented by Banks County to house mules that pulled the two-wheel carts for road work. Convict labor was used to do work on the farm. Those workers considered dangerous were kept in a steel cage the size of a boxcar.

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William Harvey had 120 acres originally, and bought 40 more acres added on the back. He had another farm, about 75 acres, further off the road. His wife Minnie died young, when she was about 35, and her mother moved in to take care of Chambers' three sons. The Chambers and quite a few families from the area sent their children to the Congregationalist School in Demorest. Mrs. Garrison kept house for the boys in Demorest. The children worked to help pay for their education. Chambers stressed education to keep his children from sharing his plight.

William Harvey Chambers farmed until the end of his life. He was one of the first chicken farmers in the area, producing hatchery eggs and then broilers for Jewel in Gainesville. Of his three sons, two now live on the Old Federal Road. One son, Hoyt, a retired school administrator, lives in his father's house. He and his wife own 65 acres of the original farm.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Aerial photos, from University of Georgia collections:  
Banks County 1938, 1941, 1942, 1951, 1956, 1980

Photographs: Taken April-May, 1985 by Sybil A. Bowers

Historic maps, from University of Georgia collections:  
1818 Georgia map, includes roads  
1829 Georgia map, includes roads  
1836 A New Map of Georgia with its Roads and Distances  
1846 A New Map of Georgia with its Roads and Distances  
1860 County Map of Georgia and Alabama  
1883 Georgia State Gazetteer map  
1894 Post Route map  
1909 Map of Banks County  
1916 Department of Agriculture map of the State of Georgia

Interviews, Roger McConnell by Sybil A. Bowers  
10 December 1984, 17 April 1985, 24 April 1985, 1 May 1985,  
15 May 1985, 22 May 1985, 29 May 1985.

Interviews, Roger McConnell by Susan Casey  
January 1990 and October 1990.

National Register Nomination for Homer, Georgia, written  
September, 1984

Road map, GMAPDC collections:  
1972, Banks County

Sherwood, Adiel. Gazetteer of the State of Georgia 1827, 1860

Georgia State Gazetteers, 1879-80, 1881-82, 1886

USGS topographic map, 1967:  
Homer quadrangle

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A

- ( ) 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 # N/A
- ( ) recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # N/A



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**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other, Specify Repository: Georgia Mountains RDC

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property**

Approximately 12 acres.

**UTM References**

A) Zone 17 Easting 277440 Northing 3805750

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the William Harvey Chambers House is indicated as a solid black line drawn to scale on the accompanying National Register Boundary map. This map is based on the current county tax maps which are drawn to a scale of 1"=660'. These maps are the largest scale maps available for this rural area.

**Boundary Justification**

Boundaries include historic structures, buildings, and visual representation of historic acreage. The boundary consists of current existing legal boundaries and topographical features, such as tree lines, that are associated with the William Chambers House.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**name/title** Preservation Planner  
**organization** Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center  
**street & number** Post Office Box 1720  
**city or town** Gainesville **state** Georgia **zip code** 30503  
**telephone** 404-536-3431 **date** Completed - Fall 1990

**name/title** John Kissane  
**organization** Private Consultant  
**street & number** 682 Ridgewood Avenue  
**city or town** Gainesville **state** Georgia **zip code** 30501  
**telephone** (770) 535-1430 **date** Completed - November 1990

**Reviewed and Edited by:**

**name/title** Amy Pallante/National Register Specialist  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**street & number** 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street, N.W.  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303  
**telephone** (404) 651-6033 **date** August 1996

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Photographs

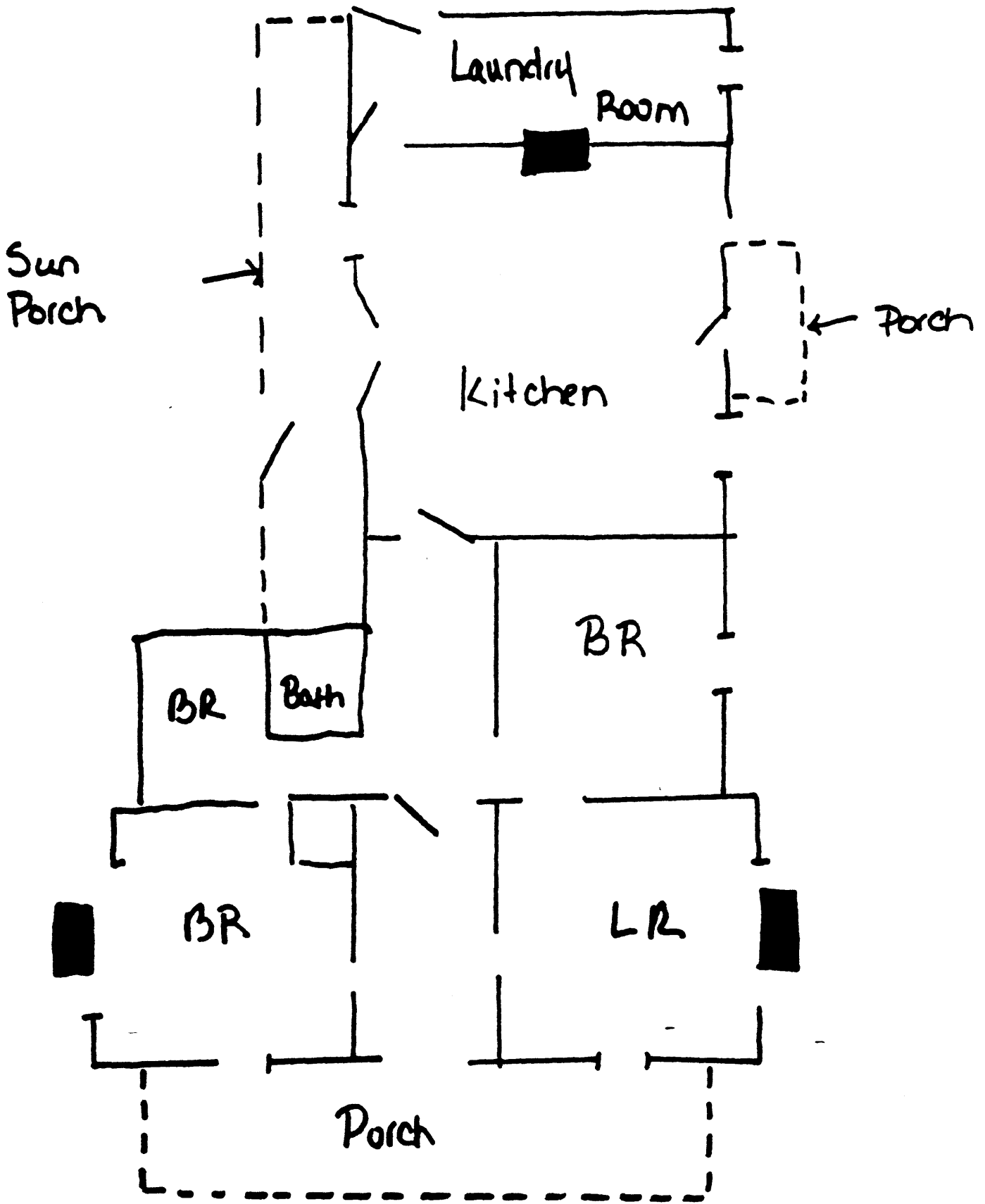
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**Name of Property:** William Harvey Chambers House  
**City or Vicinity:** Homer  
**County:** Banks  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** March 9, 1994

**Note:** Photography was field checked in July, 1996; photographs still convey an accurate representation of the property.

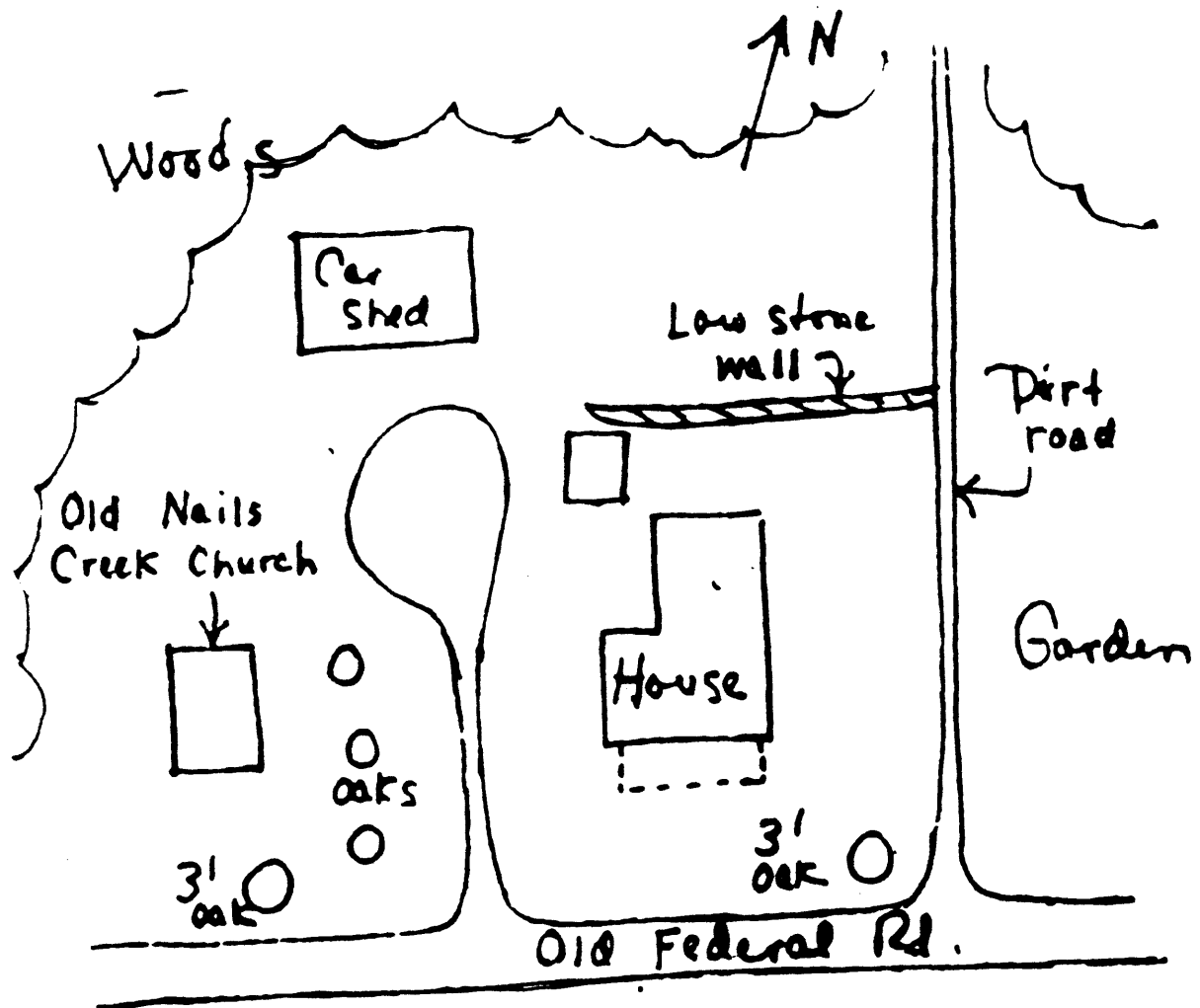
**Description of Photograph(s):**

- Photo 1 of 11 Front facade; photographer facing north.
- Photo 2 of 11 Front facade; photographer facing northwest.
- Photo 3 of 11 Side elevation; photographer facing southeast.
- Photo 4 of 11 Side elevation and yard; photographer facing east.
- Photo 5 of 11 Rear facade; photographer facing south.
- Photo 6 of 11 Outbuilding and stone wall; photographer facing east.
- Photo 7 of 11 Relocated Nails Creek Church building/Chambers store; photographer facing east.
- Photo 8 of 11 Nails Creek Church/Chambers store; photographer facing northwest.
- Photo 9 of 11 Interior view of front door; photographer facing south.
- Photo 10 of 11 Interior bedroom; photographer facing southwest.
- Photo 11 of 11 Interior living room; photographer facing southeast.



Floor Plan  
 William Chambers House, Banks County, GA.  
 Not to Scale  
 Source: Sponsor  
 Date: 1996





**Site Plan**  
 William Chambers House, Banks County, GA.  
 Not to Scale  
 Source: Sponsor  
 Date: 1996

**National Register Boundary**

William Chambers House  
Near Homer, Banks Co., GA.

Scale: 1"=660'

Source: Banks Co. Tax Map 16

Date: 1984

Key: The nominated district is marked by a heavy black line.

