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**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 CHAMPINOLE  
other names/site number Darden-Lovett-Pinkston-Keith House

**2. Location**

street & number GA Spur 109, four miles northeast of Greenville  
city, town Greenville (X) vicinity of  
county Meriwether code GA 199  
state Georgia code GA zip code 30222

(N/A) not for publication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	3	1
sites	0	0
structures	0	1
objects	0	0
total	3	2

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

**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.

Elizabeth A. Lyon  
Signature of certifying official

9/4/92  
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon  
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

entered in the National Register

Alonzo Byun 10/22/92

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

fu \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
AGRICULTURE/animal facility  
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

### Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
AGRICULTURE/animal facility  
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

EARLY REPUBLIC: EARLY CLASSICAL REVIVAL

### Materials:

foundation brick  
walls wood/ siding  
roof asphalt shingles  
other N/A

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Champinole is a rural plantation consisting of a main house, two historic barns, and two recent outbuildings. It is located in rural Meriwether County, approximately four miles from the county seat of Greenville.

The main house is built in the Early Classical Revival Style. It has a central pedimented portico with bilateral symmetry forming a temple-form front. The floor plan is two-over-two with a one-story "L" extension on the rear. The exterior walls were covered with aluminum siding over painted clapboard. There are two exterior end chimneys made of handmade bricks laid in the common bond pattern. The front portico contains four fluted, tapered square-sectioned Doric columns and two flush pilasters of the Doric order. There is a cantilevered balcony with simple handmade railing. The front doors (balcony and main) are balanced by sidelight windows.

The house is of heavy timber construction with hand-hewn sills and mortise and tenon joints. The floor plan contains a central hall with two-over-two rooms.

The interior measurements of the five original rooms are 18 feet by 19 feet, a commonly found size for many similar plantation houses. The ceilings are eleven feet in height. The original graining is preserved on the original wainscoting and on some of the doors. The walls are heart pine measuring six to ten inches in width. The floors are also heart pine with the average width being seven inches. The

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National Park Service

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stair case is boxed and was originally accessed only from the rear outside porch.

The original heating system was fireplaces, replaced or supplemented first by gas and later in 1970 by fuel oil. Now electric heat pumps are used for heating and cooling.

The landscape can be described as rolling hills, with informal landscaping around the main house. Any archaeological potential comes from the Indian era, and early Indian artifacts have been found on the property. The property once included terraced farm land, and is now located in a pecan grove.

There are four outbuildings. The two frame barns are historic and are of heavy timber construction. There were two non-historic ones, a storehouse and a wellhouse.

The main changes to the house occurred after the purchase by the Keith family in 1969. They began a major restoration of the property including the addition of a sunroom to the rear ell and the replacement of the missing columns on the front portico. In 1969 only two columns remained and these were copied and all four were replaced.

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**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):**

AGRICULTURE  
ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance:**

1845-1942

**Significant Dates:**

ca. 1845

**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)**

Statement of Significance: "Champinole", formerly the main house of the Darden-Lovett Plantation, is significant in architecture because it is a fine example of an Early Classical Revival style house. Major aspects of this style include the classically inspired and centered front portico, the pilasters, the original mantels, grained doors and wainscoting, as well as the overall symmetry of the house. The fine craftsmanship used in this house show that although it was built within two decades of the opening of this area of the state to regular settlement, fine workmanship was available and used. It is also a good example of the I-house type of vernacular house with its tall, narrow profile and its two-over-two floor plan. This type of house was common to the Georgia Piedmont in the 19th century.

The house is also significant in agriculture because it was built to be the main house of a cotton plantation and survives with two historic barns. It also has a documented use of one of the upper rooms as a storage/curing room for hams. While this no doubt took place in more recent times, it is an example of the alternative use of some rooms heretofore only recently documented in other farm houses.

**National Register Criteria**

Champinole meets National Register Criterion A because of its association with broad patterns of American history. This plantation house and its few remaining outbuildings represents the westernmost migration of Georgia settlement, the area opened for settlement by the 1827 Land Lottery, the western border. It also represents a self-sufficient farm of the hey-day of antebellum agriculture in Georgia. While most outbuildings are gone, the few that remain, the big house, and the rural setting, all reflect and represent this farm complex which was run from the big house.

This property also meets Criterion C because it embodies distinctive characteristics of a type or period, in this case the Early Classical Revival style popular with the growing American republic and its ideas of liberty, etc., based on the Greek and Roman democratic ideas. The central portico of this house is an obvious, direct reflection of these classical sources. The main house also reflects fine workmanship in the large rooms, original mantels,

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sidelights, grained wainscoting and doors, and overall symmetry of design and construction.

**Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance runs from the building of the house until the end of the historic period, since it was used as a farm and a main house for nearly a century during the historic era.

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

CONTRIBUTING

3 contributing buildings: the main house and two historic barns

NONCONTRIBUTING

1 noncontributing building (the storehouse)  
1 noncontributing structure (wellhouse)

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

When Meriwether County was newly created (in 1827), the county began to develop into one of the richest agricultural sections of the state. The climate, topography, and soil were favorable for a wide variety of crops.

Samuel Darden first appears in Meriwether County records as a Judge of the Inferior Court in 1831. He bought this land in 1842 from George Hixon who had bought the original land grant issued December 19, 1832. Samuel built the plantation now known as "Champinole" (Little Pasture) in the Jones Mill area. Markings on the chimney indicate the date "1845."

The Samuel Darden Farm was not unlike most small farms in Meriwether County. Recorded in the 1850 Agricultural Census Schedule, Samuel Darden listed 500 acres of land valued at \$5000 and machinery valued at \$325. Livestock was valued at \$1264 - listing 5 horses, 3 mules, 2 milch cows, 4 working oxen, 22 cows, 38 sheep, and 100 swine. Produced during the year ending June 1, 1850--12 bushels of wheat, 2 bushels of rye, 1250 bushels of corn, 50 bushels of oats, 36 bales of ginned cotton, and 75 pounds of wool. Also peas, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes and 75 pounds of butter were grown to support the family's need.

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Most farms were small and slave labor was limited. Of approximately 700 slave holders in Meriwether County in 1850, only about 90 owned 20 or more slaves, while some 500 owned fewer than 10. Samuel Darden listed 17 slaves, 13 males and 4 females, in the 1860 Meriwether County Slave Census Schedule. If the ownership of twenty slaves is assumed to divide the planter from the farmer, it is evident that few farms in Meriwether County attained the status of plantation.

Production increased during the next ten years and when war came in 1861, Meriwether County farmers had attained a high level of prosperity. Recovery from losses suffered during the decade of war and Reconstruction (1861-1871) brought many problems and hardships. According to the Agricultural Census Schedule of 1870 and 1880, the farm was producing practically the same amounts as in the 1850 Schedule.

Judge Samuel Darden

Samuel Darden was the son of George Washington Darden, Jr. (Rev. War) and Elizabeth Strozier. He was born May 16, 1795 (gravestone)--1796 (Bible record) in Wilkes County, Georgia, in the eastern side of the state. He grew up in Wilkes County, and married Louisa Evans in 1823.

Samuel practiced law in Wilkes County where Louisa Evans Darden died. Two years later, he married Mary A. Sidwell of Madison, Morgan County, Georgia, January 25, 1826. Their first three children were born in Wilkes County.

Samuel's father, George Washington Darden, Jr., along with many members of his family, moved to Tuscaloosa, Alabama. George W. Darden appears in the 1830 Meriwether County census when he stopped on his way to Alabama.

Samuel Darden died June 30, 1872, and Mary Ann Sidwell Darden died August 29, 1874. They are buried in a private family cemetery known as the Thrash cemetery located on the adjacent farm.

Samuel's daughter, Julia W. Darden married John Cuthbert Lovett, May 9, 1865 and they lived in the home of her parents, the nominated property. When Samuel died, John C. Lovett was named administrator of his estate under a bond of \$20,000 and also took over the management of the farm. Champinole remained a small farm.

John C. Lovett

John Cuthbert Lovett was born January 8, 1837 in Meriwether County, Georgia, a son of Judge Napoleon Bonaparte Lovett and Martha Ferrell.

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John C. Lovett is listed in the 1860 Meriwether County, Census as aged 23, a merchant.

He enlisted in the Confederate Army on March 4, 1862 at the age of 25, in Meriwether County and he was discharged at Tupelo, Mississippi, June 22, 1863. His health was bad the rest of his life.

With ill health, John Lovett had many problems running the farm. He eventually lost the farm to Dr. Pinkston. Dr. Pinkston allowed the Lovetts to live at Champinole until John Lovett's death. After the death of her husband, Julia moved from Champinole to live with her daughter.

John Cuthbert Lovett died February 8, 1899 in Meriwether County, Georgia. At his death is was stated:

Before his spirit took its flight to the God who sent it, he was asked how was it with him. With a bright smile on his face he cheerfully answered "It's all well with me."

Julia Darden Lovett sold her home, now known as Champinole, in 1895 to Dr. John Pinkston. After the death of her husband she moved to Dalton, Whitfield County, Georgia, to be near her daughter, Myrtice Lovett Tarver. She married William P. Adair, October 31, 1906. William Adair was born March 9, 1838. He died in Dalton, February 23, 1911. Julia died March 2, 1913 a short time after the death of her daughter, Myrtice, and both are buried at West Hill Cemetery, Dalton, Georgia.

Julia Darden Lovett ran a private school in one of the rooms of the house. The school was run probably during the last few years before the house was sold. In the 1880s, the mustard bedroom was used as a classroom for Mrs. Julia Darden Lovett's first and second grade students. Mrs. Dora Moore Evans (1971) of Jones Mill, vividly recalled attending "Miss Julia's" school.

Napoleon Bonaparte Lovett

John C. Lovett's father was the source of the name "Champinole." Napoleon named one estate, "Champinole," or "Little Pasture," in French; and another, "Mt. Chulis," place of rest, in French. On the latter, he built a plantation with school house, shops, mill, houses for slaves, and both a slave cemetery and a family cemetery plot were set aside. In his will, Napoleon mentions both Champinole and Mt. Chulis. Both were later destroyed. Napoleon died August 4, 1872 in Meriwether County and was buried at "Mt. Chulis."

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Dr. John Pinkston, Arthur and Sweet Render

Dr. John Pinkston and his family owned the house from 1895 to 1969. During this time the house was vacant or rented. Dr. Pinkston ran the farm but never lived in the house. Arthur and Sweet Render were black sharecroppers who rented the farm and lived in the house. They maintained the small farm adding a pecan orchard around the house, circa 1920. The Renders lived in the house during the fifty years prior to 1969. Around the late 1930s most of the farm land was planted in pines by Dr. Pinkston.

Joseph W. Keith, Jr.

In 1969 Joseph William Keith, Jr., and family bought the house from Dr. Pinkston's family. They had found what they were looking for, the ideal house to renovate. The house was then over 125 years old. The exterior had never had been painted. The interior had the original paint on the walls. There was no plumbing in the house and the wiring was rudimentary. The house had been kept in good repair, but no previous attempts had been made to remodel it.

On February 18, 1970 William Keith suffered a heart attack and died, just after renovation had begun. To keep going, Mrs. Keith and the children, Jennie, Joe and Jim, continued the restoration.

Mrs. Keith sought advice from the staff of the Columbus Museum of Arts and Crafts, Columbus, Georgia. These experts verified the date, 1845, which is on one of the chimneys. Attempts were made to revive the original paints inside the house. When these attempts failed, Mrs. Keith decided that the colors would be duplicated. It is interesting to note that the colors in this house were used as a basis for the color schemes in the old houses at Westville (a recreated historic museum village) near Lumpkin, Georgia.

Mrs. Keith made a great effort to restore the interior of her home to its original state, yet she added all the conveniences and extra space that an active family demands. No closets were in the original house, so, closets were built with boards which were taken from an old house on one of the Keith farms. Grained wainscoting was used in the new breakfast room. The graining, which is the old technique of painting the grain pattern of a more expensive wood on pine, shows up well in the breakfast room. These boards were taken from the other house and left as they were except for the use of a clear sealer to protect them.

The bedrooms upstairs have charcoal colored mantels and baseboards. One bedroom is a caramel color; the other is mustard. What is now the upstairs bathroom, was once used as a smokehouse, or room to hang

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cured hams and other meats. A fire was built on a sheet of tin placed over bricks on the floor. After the meat was smoked, it was hung in the caramel bedroom.

During the restoration, new construction consisted of breakfast room/kitchen, den and back porch. The (original) back room was extended four feet to allow for a bath. When the workmen were removing the mantel from the living room/parlor, the bottom of the mantel was cut. Mrs. Keith replaced that mantel with a fancier one found in one of the other homes on the farm in nearby Gay, Georgia. The original parlor mantel is now in the new den. All of the other mantels are original to the house.

More trees surround the house than are now there. Two large diseased cedars were removed. Old outbuildings that were too far gone to be worthwhile for renovation were torn down. These included the old kitchen, blacksmith shop, garages or carriage houses. The lawns were improved and shrubs planted.

To complete the story of the renovation, the Keith family found a beautiful name in the history of the Lovett family which they decided to adopt for their own. John C. Lovett's father, Napoleon Bonaparte Lovett, owned several plantations. All of them had French names as a reminder of his family's French origin. One of the plantations, which no longer exists, was called Champinole, meaning "little pasture." After this discovery, the Keith family decided that henceforth, the Darden-Lovett-Pinkston-Keith House would be known as "Champinole".

In October of 1987 Mrs. Lenora Keith moved to Moultrie, Georgia, to be close to her daughter, Jennie. Lenora's son, Joe, and his family moved into the house. Champinole is now the home of Joe, Sallie, Jessica, Bill, and Lauren Keith.

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## **9. Major Bibliographic References**

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Keith, Sallie Estes. "Darden-Lovett-Pinkston-Keith House...", Historic Property Information Form, Dec. 17, 1989. On file at the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, GA.

**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 #
- ( ) recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**Primary location of additional data:**

- (X) State historic preservation office
- ( ) Other State Agency
- ( ) Federal agency
- ( ) Local government
- ( ) University
- ( ) Other, Specify Repository:

**Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):**

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** ca. 50 acres.

**UTM References**

A) Zone 16 Easting 719430 Northing 3659700  
B) Zone 16 Easting 719920 Northing 3659820  
C) Zone 16 Easting 719910 Northing 3659380  
D) Zone 16 Easting 719420 Northing 3659380

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is marked on the accompanying plat.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property is all that the current owners own at this location and all of the original land lot that remains associated with the plantation house. It contains the main house and its yard, several outbuildings, and representative rural acreage.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**name/title** Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian  
**organization** Office of Historic Preservation, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**street & number** 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334  
**telephone** (404) 656-2840 **date** July 30, 1992

(HPS form version 10-29-91)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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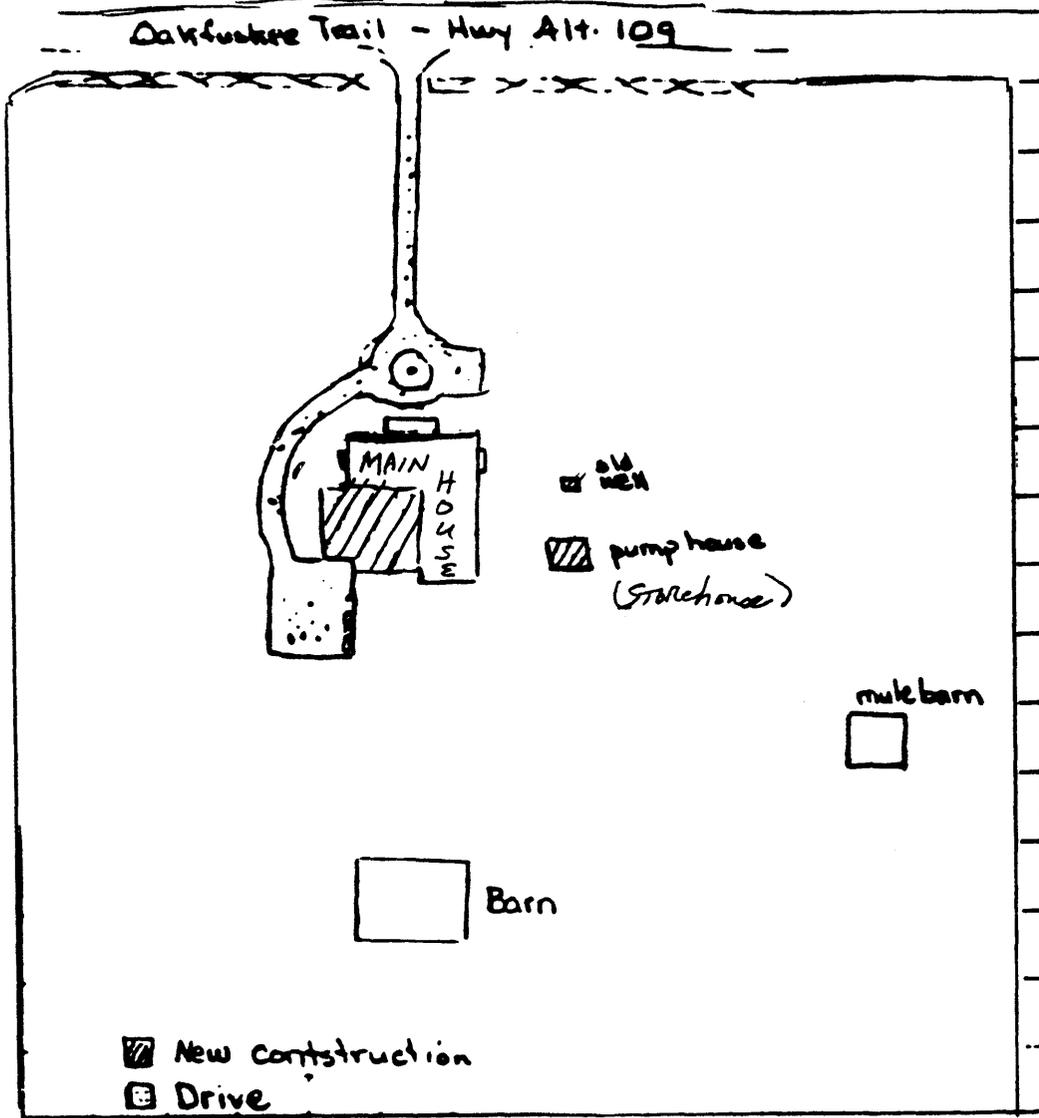
**Photographs**

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**Name of Property:** Champinole  
**City or Vicinity:** Greenville vicinity  
**County:** Meriwether  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** December, 1991

**Description of Photograph(s):**

- 1 of 11: Front facade, photographer facing southwest.
- 2 of 11: East facade, showing rear ell, and storage building and well; photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of 11: Rear facade, showing rear ells, and two outbuildings in background; photographer facing northeast.
- 4 of 11: Rear facade, with pecan grove and barn; photographer facing north.
- 5 of 11: Mule barn; photographer facing northeast.
- 6 of 11: First floor, entrance hall showing stair; photographer facing south.
- 7 of 11: First floor, parlor (northeast front room); photographer facing east.
- 8 of 11: First floor, parlor (northeast front room), detail of door and marbled wainscoting; photographer facing west.
- 9 of 11: First floor, dining room (northwest front room); photographer facing northwest.
- 10 of 11: First floor, open stair to second floor, and doorway to entrance hall; photographer facing north.
- 11 of 11: Second floor, bedroom above the parlor; photographer facing east.

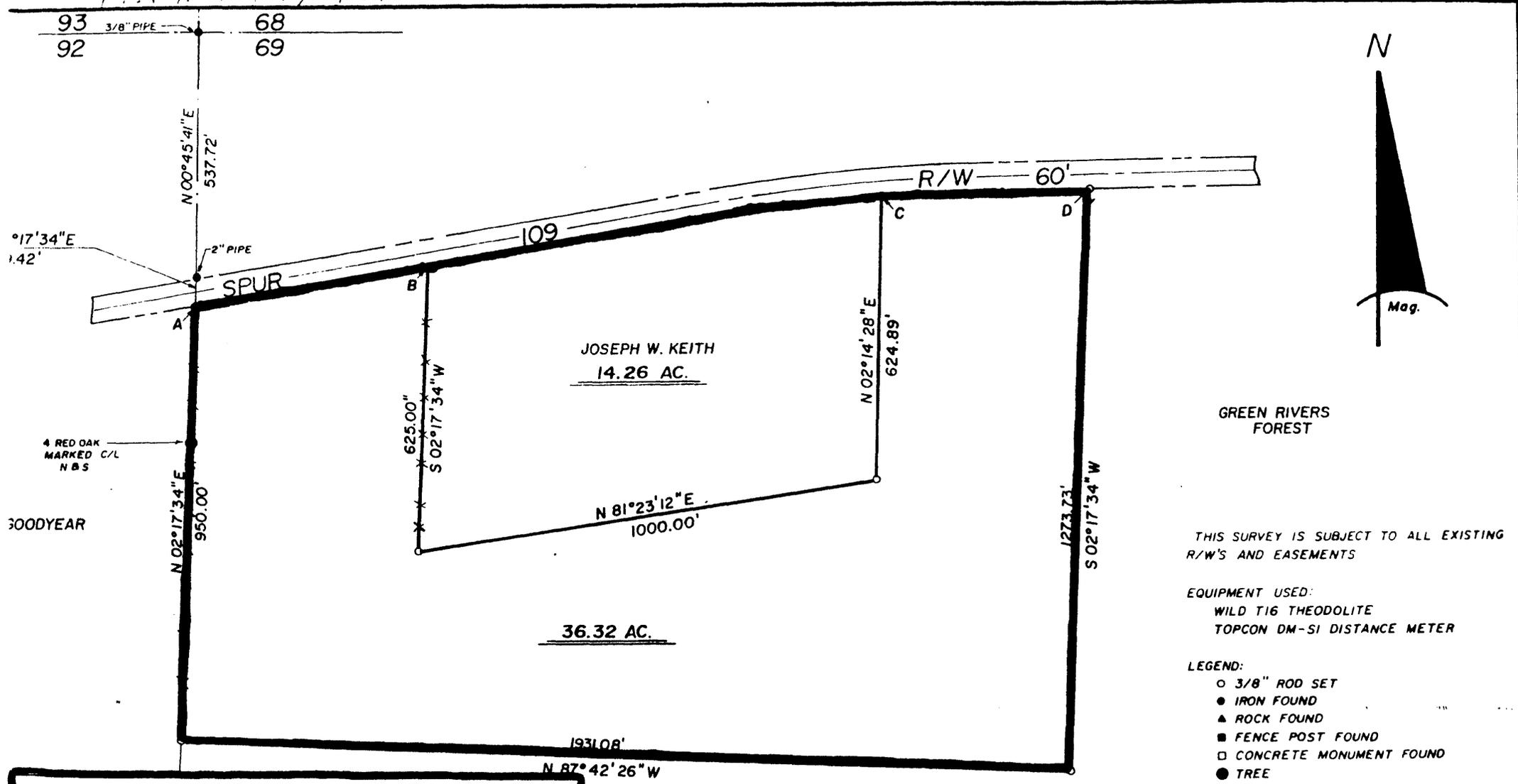


Sketch Map (Site Plan)

Champinole  
 Greenville, Meriwether County, Georgia  
 Scale: Not to scale  
 Source: Sallie E. Keith  
 Date: c. 1989  
 Key: All marked on the sketch



Plat Map 13, page 47



GREEN RIVERS FOREST

THIS SURVEY IS SUBJECT TO ALL EXISTING R/W'S AND EASEMENTS

EQUIPMENT USED:  
 WILD T16 THEODOLITE  
 TOPCON DM-SI DISTANCE METER

- LEGEND:
- 3/8" ROD SET
  - IRON FOUND
  - ▲ ROCK FOUND
  - FENCE POST FOUND
  - CONCRETE MONUMENT FOUND
  - TREE

**Plat Map**

Champinole  
 Greenville, Meriwether County, Georgia  
 Scale: As shown on the plat  
 Source: Patton, Patton, & Burchfield  
 Date: 1988  
 Key: The nominated property is marked by a heavy black line.

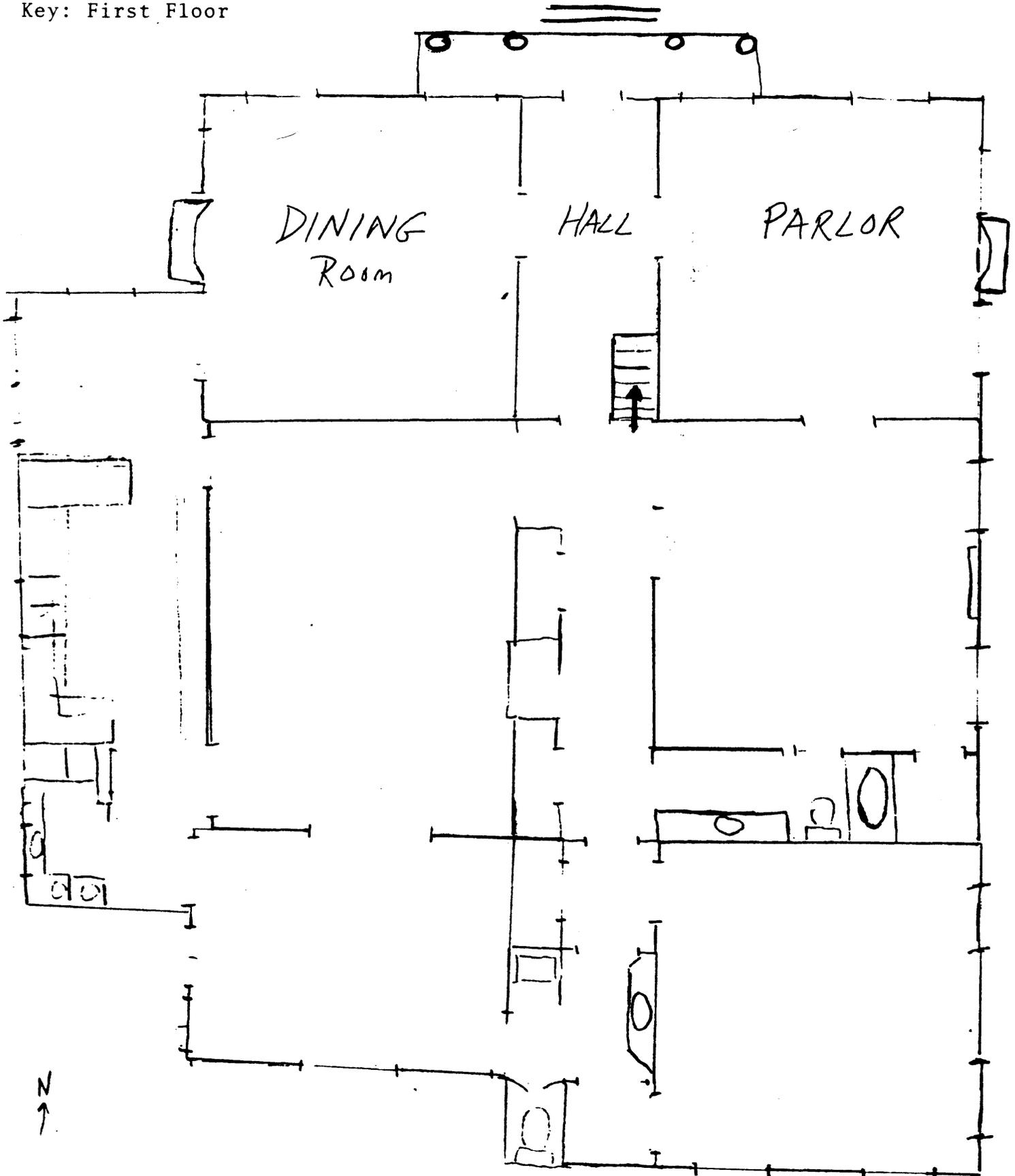
LONG SOUTH R/W OF SPUR 109

81°18'00" E	10.00'
81°18'00" E	125.48'
80°11'59" E	181.04'
80°05'54" E	198.48'
80°05'54" E	77.63'
80°14'01" E	501.81'
80°29'21" E	141.69'
82°53'43" E	122.38'
84°51'00" E	113.26'
86°41'34" E	41.23'

C-D	N 86°41'34" E	53.46'
	N 87°45'02" E	74.04'
	N 89°01'08" E	125.83'
	N 89°07'35" E	193.35'

SURVEY FOR		
GREEN RIVERS FOREST		
BY		
PATTON, PATTON & BURCHFIELD, INC.		
SHARPSBURG, GA. 253-7665		
COUNTY	SCALE	JOB NUMBER
MERIWETHER	1" = 300'	880426
LAND DISTRICT:	04/26/88	SHEET OF
LAND LOT	DRAWN BY	REFERENCE:
69	SHB	

Chaminole  
Greenville, Meriwether County, Georgia  
Scale: Not to scale  
Source: Sallie E. Keith  
Date: c. 1989  
Key: First Floor



1989