

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 R. Edwards
Signature of certifying official

5-17-95
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
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, explain:
- see continuation sheet

Edson H. Beall
Entered in the
National Register

6/20/95

[Signature]
Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
EDUCATION/research facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Neoclassical Revival

Materials:

foundation	brick and concrete block
walls	wood
roof	asphalt
other	N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

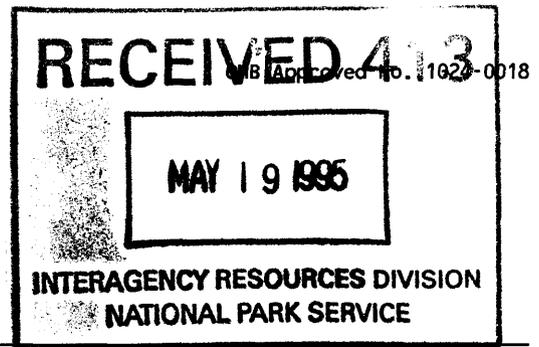
INTRODUCTION

The Dickey-Birdsong Plantation is essentially a wildlife preserve and conservation area. It includes a main house, a ca. 1912 expansion of an antebellum structure, a historic barn, and a wide-range of 20th-century outbuildings built after 1938. The main house was a mid-19th century dogtrot. The building was expanded to one-and-one-half stories with a front porch across the entire front length, dormer windows, and a kitchen ell. The front entrance has a classical transom and sidelights. The chimneys have been rebuilt. Several rooms contain unpainted paneling and there is a central stair leading to the upper floor. One major feature of the house is the "bird window", a large plate glass window, added in 1958. All outbuildings are frame and range from the documented 1858 barn to those built in the 1930s-1940s to serve the conservation purposes of the new owners. The property consists of fields, woods, and wetlands. Five historic fields remain as do a Champion pecan tree, a pecan orchard from 1910, and a ca. 1912 Southern Magnolia. Split rail fencing from the Dickey era also survives. Used as a wildlife managed area for over fifty years, the property has a variety of habitats including wetlands to encourage and attract wildlife. The six acres around the main house were landscaped by the current owners to attract birds and butterflies. 164 species of birds have been seen from the bird window. There is archaeological potential because of extensive documentation of activity on the place during the century of Dickey ownership. This includes the location of the ginhouse, well, kitchen, a school and approximately 10-15 other farm outbuildings and tenant houses. The property is in a rural setting close to the Florida border. Other functioning plantations

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7



adjoin it on two sides. 196 acres of the property are used as the Birdsong Nature Center.

The Dickey-Birdsong Plantation is 565 acres of diverse topography near the Florida-Georgia border. Originally part of a vast longleaf pine forest, in the 19th century the property was extensively cleared for agriculture. The lots making up the total were acquired by Shadrach and William J. Dickey between 1836 and 1872 and remained in the Dickey family until 1938. Since 1938 it has been owned/managed by Edwin V. and Betty Komarek, active conservationists. The property has been managed for wildlife diversity through the creation and maintenance of a variety of habitats. Former fields are maintained as open areas through prescribed burning; farm ponds, streams, and a bay/swamp add wetlands; upland pine and hardwood forests and orchards provide food and shelter for wildlife. Beginning informally in 1980 and followed by incorporation as a non-profit organization in 1986, Birdsong has been operated as an educational nature center.

1. Overall view of the property.

The rural historic landscape includes a 1912 dwelling, an 1858 barn, and 20th-century outbuildings. The dwelling at Birdsong, the Dickey-Komarek house, is a frame, 1-and-1/2 story vernacular home with Neoclassical Revival elements, painted white. It was built in 1912 by adding to a mid-19th century dogtrot house, using heart pine cut on the property. The basic plan is rectangular, a central passage double-pile house, with a one-story kitchen ell off the southwest corner. A side-gable roof over the house forms an intersecting gable roof with the kitchen.

2. Exterior materials, finishes, and craftsmanship:

The eastern half of the dwelling's front facade is faced with hand-planed boards and dates from the mid-19th century. (photos 1, 2) There are three exterior red brick chimneys, one centered on each gable end plus a third, to the rear of the east gable. Both east chimneys were rebuilt in 1939, replacing 1912 chimneys which had fallen.

The outbuildings on the property, including the 1858 barn and non-contributing buildings supporting the nature center operation, are also of frame construction.

3. Exterior details, ornamentation, hardware, and craftsmanship:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7

The apparently symmetrical facade of the Dickey-Komarek house has a central door, with 3-part Neoclassical Revival transoms and single rectangular side lights. (photo 2)

Six round, slender unfluted Doric-style columns across the front support the upper half-story. The columns rest on brick piers. An inset, railed front porch was removed in the 1940s because it had deteriorated; it was replaced with steps from the front door to a brick patio which extends outside the roofline.

The boxed eaves on the house and dormers are enlarged at the base of the gables (photo 3). Sash windows throughout the house are 1/1; there is a louvered window in the pantry. Foundation screening of brick, of concrete block faced with brick, and of wooden lattice, has been added since 1939.

This main part of the house has a 45 degree pitch gable roof with three gabled dormer windows--one on the landing facing the rear, and one in each of the upstairs rooms facing the front.

4. Interior arrangement, organization of interior spaces:

A central hall on the first floor of the Dickey-Komarek house is flanked by two rooms on each side; (see FLOOR PLANS, Dickey-Komarek house, first floor). The two bedrooms on the east side have fireplaces with exterior red brick chimneys; the northwest room, the library, also has a fireplace. It currently serves as a gift shop for the nature center. The central hall houses the Komarek natural history collection, on redwood shelves added in the 1940s. Stairs in the hall (photo 7) lead to a wide landing and to the half-story, which has a central hall with a room on each side. (see FLOOR PLANS, Dickey-Komarek house, second floor) These former bedrooms, each with a fireplace, are used as storage (photo 12). Above these rooms is an attic.

Additions to this basic plan are the kitchen/pantry and back porch/bathroom (photo 8). The kitchen is joined to the main house on the rear, southwest corner, as a wing with an end gable roof (photos 4 and 5). A projecting shed roof covers the ell back porch which was enlarged to complete a rectangle in 1958 and screened; the eastern section of the ell was enclosed as a washroom/bathroom between 1920 and 1939.

5. Interior materials, finishes, and craftsmanship:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

The dwelling's interior features horizontal pine paneling, 10" wide, yellow pine flooring, and 10-foot ceilings.

6. Interior details, ornamentation, hardware, and craftsmanship:

A major feature of the house interior (although outside the period of significance) is the "bird window", a large plate glass window added in 1958 by Ed and Betty Komarek. The bird window replaced a double window in the southwest room (photo 9) and provided for group viewing of a landscaped bird feeding area.

The northeast bedroom has a closet and a toilet added in 1948; these additions incorporated the original paneling so that their exterior walls match the other walls in the room. Floor to ceiling shelves, also added in the 1940s, line one wall of the library, the downstairs hall, and each of the upstairs rooms. Two closets at the end of the downstairs hall were also added, as well as kitchen cabinets.

7. Structural system, including type(s) of structural system(s), kinds of structural materials and joints, and craftsmanship:

The structure rests on brick (English bond) and concrete block piers. The foundation of the northwest room (library) dates to the 1851 Dickey home; hewn joists are half-lap jointed to a hewn front (north) sill. The two downstairs rooms on the east, which were added to the 1851 house during the 19th century, also have hewn sills and joists, with hewn and pegged joints.

8. Historical mechanical systems, utilities, and services (such as heating and ventilation equipment, plumbing, electric wiring or gas piping, fixtures, etc.):

There are no historical systems; water and electricity were added to the house ca. 1942; electricity was provided by a Delco plant until the Rural Electrification Administration arrived in 1948. Heat was provided by the fireplaces and the kitchen woodstove until central heat was added.

9. Grounds, including natural terrain and landscaping:

The elevation ranges from 170 feet above sea level (west of the bay, below the dam), to 260 feet above sea level (northeast of the house).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7

Two other "high" points are near the northwest corner of the property (230 feet) and in the shortleaf pine woods (240 feet).

The property has fields, woods, and wetlands. Cleared for agriculture in the 19th century, five open fields remain today. Two fields retain 19th century designations--the Ginhouse Field and the Bay Field. Other elements of the historic setting include a champion pecan tree (in 1985, the circumference was 16.5 feet) west of the house planted in 1855-1856 by Anna Maria Reynolds Dickey (photo 4), a pecan orchard east of the house planted in 1910, and a Southern magnolia, planted in front of the house in 1912. Split rail fencing near the house, formerly along the rear property line, also dates to the Dickey era.

The property has been managed since the 1940s by the Komareks as a demonstration of ecological management principles; a variety of habitats are provided to encourage and attract wildlife. (see also Site Plan Map) The natural wetlands on the property were dammed in the early 1940s to create ponds and a 60-acre swamp; improved pastures were developed. Woods of holly and pine border the fields.

The six acres surrounding the dwelling were landscaped by Betty Komarek with plants selected to attract birds, butterflies and other insects with year-round natural food sources and shelter (see Site Plan, house area) The landscaped area at the bird window, reminiscent of a Japanese garden, has been the center of her environmental education work with youth groups and youth leaders (photo 9; see also Site Plan, bird window). The house and window also served for decades as a gathering place for visiting scientists studying the work of the Komareks and, later, Tall Timbers Research Station. One hundred and sixty-four species of birds have been seen from the bird window.

10. Outbuildings:

The house and the majority of the out buildings are on the northern part of the property, which has historically been the location of a cluster of buildings.

Four outbuildings are arranged in a rectangle southwest of the house: (photos 15,16,17; see also Site Plan showing Outbuildings).

a. Dickey Barn, south side of rectangle; contributing; 1858 (photos 15-16).

Heart pine; original foundation was log, now frame walls rest on concrete block; hewn and pegged joints, tin roof (original roof was shake); currently used for nature center programs; previously crop and tool storage; central room floor and some interior wall cladding

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

removed. Once 3 rooms, in the early 20th century the east room was used for cotton, the center room for corn, and the west room for tools. Projecting loft stored hay and oats, and provided a shelter for wagons; calves' stalls were added under the rear loft by the Dickey's prior to 1920; storage rooms were created under the front loft, and a lean-to shed was added behind the stalls in 1939-1940. Two 20th century silos. On 23 December 1858, W.J. Dickey notes in his journal, "Finished raising barn this morning early." A barn is sketched on the 1871 map in this approximate location.

a.1 and a.2 Storage Bins, adjacent to Dickey Barn. These two "Butler Building" types, built prior to 1945, are contributing.

b. Cow shed, north side of rectangle; contributing; built between 1922 and 1933; long, open shed, pole and tin; formerly enclosed animal stalls, now used for programs and storage (photo 15).

c. Komarek Barn, west side of rectangle; contributing; built by a neighbor, Arthur Lee, in 1942; frame, enclosed loft and storage room surrounded on 3 sides by open shed; used for equipment storage and programs (photo 17).

d. Komarek pump house, east side of rectangle; contributing; 1943; frame, door on west side; houses pump for deep well (photos 14 and 15).

The Well, adjacent to the Main House, is also a historic property:

e. Well, contributing. (photo 5)

Southeast of house:

f. Komarek garage/office; contributing; Arthur Lee, 1943; frame; former garage and office, now storage and nature center office.

g. Registration hut/shelter; non-contributing; 1989; frame; built for nature center visitors.

h. Restrooms; non-contributing; 1985; frame; built for nature center visitors.

Outside the house complex of buildings:

i. "Listening Place", southwest of house complex, south of Ginhouse Field; non-contributing; 1986, frame and screen, built and used for nature center programs.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

j. Dickey Tenant House, east of house complex at NE of Lot 23; non-contributing; 1916, with many later alterations, including pitch of roof; frame, originally a dogtrot; former tenant house; current residence. First resident was Garnet Dickey (photo 18).

k. Eddie's House, west of house complex, NW of Farm Pond; non-contributing; 1940s with 1970s alterations; frame, originally a pump house on Sherwood Plantation, moved to Birdsong and converted to a residence in 1973-1974; now empty).

11. Archaeological potential, if known or reliably inferred (sites of previously existing structures, landscape features, or activities):

The prehistoric archaeological potential of the property has not been surveyed. The longleaf pine forest which once dominated the region was a hunting area for the Native Americans; the Tallahassee area to the south had continuous occupation from paleo-Indians into the 19th century. Flint points have been collected from the fields at Birdsong.

Extant walls and chimneys of abandoned buildings were removed by the Komareks in the 1940s as part of their preparation for prescribed burning. Known sites of previous structures and features that might have archaeological potential are:

a. The Ginhouse Field derives its name from an 1850s GINHOUSE for cotton ginning that was located near the center. A large roof, mounted on beams and posts, protected the cotton press and baling machinery. W. J. Dickey notes in his diary on August 11, 1858, "Finished weatherboarding shed around ginhouse". The ginhouse, likely the large building on the 1871 map, lot no. 25, blew down in high winds ca. 1900. The screw and other parts remained in the field until contributed to the scrap metal drives of World War One.

b. To the east of the Dickey barn is a depression planted with yuccas marking a 19th century WELL site. It was open as late as the 1930s, although unused.

c. A road which appears on the 1871 map and the 1933 plat map of the property (identified as "plantation road" on the 1933 plat map) is still present south of the Holly Woods.

d. The 19th century KITCHEN behind the main house was 5 feet north of the WELL that is still present and now capped (photo 5).

e. The 1897-1898 Bethpage SCHOOL; Chandler Dickey in 1989 described it as located 1/2 mile west of the Dickey-Komarek house along Meridian

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Road, then south 100 yards, on the west side of a wagon road. There was a WELL nearby that was used by the school. The school, built by Arthur and Eddie Dickey, was a one-room building of longleaf pine; it was used until 1916 when a two-room school was built on neighboring Sherwood Plantation. An earlier one-room school had been near the Bethpage site, on the east side of the wagon road.

f. A SYRUP SHED in use for syrupmaking and hogkilling until 1939; located (according to Chandler Dickey) 150 feet due south of barn well (b). After 1939, shed sheltered a hammer mill; Komareks took it down and remember its location as "Letts Mill" woods SW of barn. The final syrupmaking at the shed was in 1939.

g. The pre-1912 kitchen and dining room building was moved east of the 19th century well (b, above) around 1916, continuing in use as a corn crib. It was torn down in the 1940s by the Komareks.

h. Directly north of the current pump house was a gum log "smokehouse" with a clay floor, torn down after 1943. (This building was possibly "i", below)

i. IRONING HOUSE in area of barn, 75 feet a little south of east from the well (d), "just out of the yard", according to Chandler Dickey, "where the ironing was done", early 20th century. Possibly a former slave house; four small buildings with chimneys are located behind the Dickey house on the 1871 map, and may include i, j, and k.

j. COTTON HOUSE was 60 feet due south of ironing house (i). Tenants brought cotton here to be weighed, early 20th century. Possibly a former slave house.

k. GUANO HOUSE was 200-300 feet east of cotton house (j). Purchased acid and cotton seed meal were mixed on the floor of this building to use as fertilizer, early 20th century. Possibly a former slave house.

l. FRANKLIN TENANT HOUSE, a 3 room house described as 3/4 mile west of Dickey-Komarek house on Meridian and 200 yards southeast of old Bethpage School (e). West of Warren and Sarah Franklin's home, 100-200 yards, was a second Franklin tenant house occupied by their son Warren and his family.

m. The DICKEY BUGGY HOUSE, converted to a garage in 1914, was located south of the house in the area of the Komarek garage/office. The pathway to the east of the house, leading to the back, was a driveway to this garage.

n. The family PRIVIES in 1939 were located behind the cow shed, on the edge of what was a chicken yard. In the early 20th century a one

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

acre garden occupied this area and the PRIVY was at the northwest corner of the garden.

o. The cow shed was built on the site of former enclosed STABLES.

p. WYCHE TENANT HOUSE, located west of the Frog Pond in a field next to a woodlands.

q. Abandoned tenant houses- possibly former slave houses-were still evident at 4 or 5 locations in 1939 when the Komareks acquired the property, marked by chimneys and logs. It might be possible to locate these and determine which sites are Franklin and Wyche with a survey. One was known as the Harper house when it was torn down in 1941.

r. The 1916 Dickey tenant house (existing, 10.j.) had a small BARN, located south of the house, used for storage and a well.

12. General character and appearance of the property's surroundings and relationship of property to its surroundings:

Birdsong Plantation's 565 acres are set in a rural area that has historically been large agricultural acreage. Land use in the early 19th century was primarily cotton plantations; many large acreage properties became quail hunting plantations in the 1880s. Today the game plantations and small acreage farms are witnessing the beginnings of residential development. Adjacent to Birdsong on the north is the 1000-acre Sherwood Plantation; to the east, the 2250-acre Mandolay Plantation. South of Birdsong are two family farms, approximately 100 acres; a 60 acre homesite is west of Birdsong, with a development of 5-acre tracts just beyond it.

A total of 196.82 acres of the 565 acre Birdsong Plantation has been transferred to Birdsong Nature Center. It is the intent of the Komareks that the entire plantation gradually be turned over to the Nature Center, to remain intact as an environmental education center dedicated to the land management principles of the Komarek/Tall Timbers tradition, enabling the property to maintain its character as a rural historical landscape.

13. Changes to the property, including alterations, additions, demolitions, and remodelings, and their dates (either list here or add to the appropriate categories above):

Changes have been included in the appropriate categories above. The house maintains its 1912 integrity in arrangement and materials.

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): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

ARCHITECTURE
AGRICULTURE
CONSERVATION

Period of Significance:

1851-1945

Significant Dates:

1851; 1858 (Barn); 1912 (Main House)

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Unknown

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

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

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Dickey-Birdsong Plantation is significant in architecture because the main house reflects the typical adaptation and evolution of an antebellum dogtrot into a 1912 main house including the addition of the Neoclassical entrance transom and sidelights and the facade-long front porch supported by six Doric columns. The "new" Dickey House, built in 1912, retains much visible evidence of this earlier structure. The entrance is centered and the porch balanced, all part of the Neoclassical Revival style. On the interior, the house reflects its use as a conservation/nature center headquarters with its many paneled rooms without formal details.

The property is also significant in agriculture because it contains a rare, documented example (through a diary entry) of an antebellum frame barn built in 1858 by the original plantation owner William James Dickey. Although updated for current usages through time, this barn, along with the five remaining fields, reflect the plantation's heyday as a working cotton plantation. Maintaining the patchwork pattern of open fields and woodlands established during the sharecropping of the late nineteenth century, it is a rural landscape preserved through land management. Terraces built with mule power during the Dickey years, repaired by the Komareks with the help of the Soil Conservation Service in the 1940s, are still visible in the Ginhouse Field and the bay fields. The barn was used for storage of cotton and other products of the farm. The fields retain their antebellum farm appellations, have been re-terraced and are used to grow cover crops to prevent erosion.

The property is significant in conservation for the work done here since 1938 when it was purchased and redeveloped by Ed and Betty Komarek, who became well-known conservationists. The six major features of their programs, during the historic period (1938-1945) of their ownership, include: introducing innovative soil conservation techniques; creating farm ponds and bay swamps for wild turkey roosting, water bird nesting, and aquatic life; using prescribed burning to reduce brush and restore native ground covers; sharing the knowledge of the advantages of their programs to many educational and youth groups as well as wildlife scientists, conservationists and photographers; and being active in statewide conservation activities. Southern game management was developed in this area of southwest Georgia through experimentation and refinement of traditional local practices. The plantation, along with nearby Greenwood Plantation, and Tall Timbers Research Station, has been prominent in the development of wildlife management practices, both as the site of

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

experimentation with prescribed burning and as a temporary home for scientists visiting the research station.

Birdsong, even before incorporation as a nature center, was a teaching center for school classes, youth clubs, garden clubs, university students of forestry, wildlife management, and agriculture, and other environmentally-interested groups to "learn by doing", experiencing through observation and activities a biota-rich species list of 196 birds, 35 mammals, 50 reptiles and amphibians, 80 trees, and 196 plants and grasses. Thousands of visitors have been amazed by the abundance and diversity of the birds at the bird window year-round; it has been called "the world's best birding window". Four state "firsts" in birding have been confirmed for the bird window- sightings of a western tanager, a blackheaded grosbeak, a western chipping sparrow, and a Lawrence's warbler hybrid. Additionally, many county records are included in the 164 species seen from the bird window. Stoddard's Birds of Grady County cites Betty Komarek and Birdsong throughout.

The Komareks' conscious development of habitat variety for wildlife diversity through their practice of land management techniques has determined the visual landscape of Birdsong. Open fields which once grew cotton and later grazed cattle are burned regularly to encourage the new growth that attracts wildlife. The surrounding woodlands and orchards provide additional food sources and shelter for wildlife. Betty Komarek's planned landscaping on the six acres around the house transformed a bare dirt yard into a bird's "garden of delights". The landscape at Birdsong, particularly that at the bird watching window, has been a major stimulant in inspiring visitors to not only learn about the environment and conservation but also to create wildlife-friendly habitats in their own backyards. The planned, managed landscape at Birdsong has developed as a major aspect of the conservation education and practices of the Komareks.

National Register Criteria

Birdsong Plantation meets National Register Criterion A because it reflects several of the broad patterns of American history, in this case, agriculture and conservation. The original plantation, established in mid-Antebellum days by the Dickey family, is reflected by: one documented antebellum (1858) barn which shows the building techniques of that era and by many of the remaining roads and fields which also retain their names from earlier days. The property is most important in conservation, having been a proving ground by the internationally known and respected E. V. Komarek for his innovative conservation practices. He was a founder of the Tall Timbers Research Station which is nearby.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

The property meets National Register Criterion C because of the good craftsmanship reflected in the main house which reached its current form in 1912. The house reflects the evolution of a one-room, log, dogtrot farm house to a main house with restrained Neoclassical Revival details. These are seen in the Classical front entrance and in the Doric columned front porch. Interior details help one trace the various additions of rooms, a dogtrot-later a central hall, and still later additions. The observable expansion also mirrors the changing fortunes of the Dickey family who lived here from 1851 to 1938. The property also includes a documented 1858 barn, one of only a few antebellum barns in Georgia whose actual date of construction is known. It shows the fine craftsmanship even an outbuilding received in antebellum days. Although outside the period of significance, the more recent addition of a large, "Bird Window" has been important in the house's use as a center for the Birdsong Nature Center. This window helped adapt the house into a center for birdwatching and from the window over 164 species of birds have been identified.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period chosen (1851-1945) runs from the creation of a separate plantation by William J. Dickey in 1851 through the creation/construction of the 1858 barn and continued use of the plantation/farm by the Dickey family until 1938. At that point the farm was purchased by the Komareks who transformed it into a conservation center running through the end of the historic era (1945) to the present.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The contributing resources are those that are over 50 years old and which have retained their integrity. The ten are:

The Main House, the Dickey Barn (1858), the Komarek Barn (1942), the 1920 Cow Shed, the 1942 Pump House, the 1943 Office/Garage, the 1850 well, and the two storage tanks adjacent to the Dickey Barn.

The surrounding rural landscape which reflects both 19th century agriculture and 20th century conservation practices also contributes

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

to the significance of the property, and is counted as a single contributing site.

The many potential archaeological sites are not counted as contributing at this time because no formal archaeology has been conducted.

The noncontributing resources are those that are less than 50 years old, which include five: the 1989 Registration Hut/Shelter, the 1985 Restrooms, the 1970s Eddie's House, and the 1986 Listening Place; as well as some resources which have historic origins but which have been compromised by changes to render them no longer historic. The Dickey Tenant House falls into this category. Also included in this category are the "Bird Window" and landscaping around the main house which will become significant historic features in the future when they are 50 years old.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

The Dickeys

The story of Birdsong Plantation begins with Shadrach E. Dickey, his wife Susannah Ellen (Harvin), and their son William, who moved to southwest Georgia about 1830 from South Carolina. Dickey settled in the Duncanville area, and acquired a total of over 1500 acres and 57 slaves by the time of his death in 1847.

The undivided estate, rich land near the Florida line, was under the management of Shadrach's eldest son, William Dickey. In 1849, he married 18 year-old Anna Marie Reynolds, an 1848 Wesleyan graduate. Their household included William's widowed stepmother, Harriet (Shadrach's second wife), and 6 of his siblings, ranging from 2 year-old Susan to Thomas, age 19. In 1850, the Dickeys controlled 32 male and 35 female slaves, aged from 7 months to 60 years, including the individuals in the Shadrach Dickey estate. Of 382 slaveholders in Thomas County, only 19 others had over 50 slaves.

From 1851 to 1859, the Shadrach Dickey estate was divided among eight heirs through a system of chance, reminiscent of the Georgia land lotteries. Shares were described and assigned numbers, the numbers written on papers, and the papers then placed in a hat. The heirs' names whose property was to be assigned at that drawing were written on slips of paper placed in a second hat. "The hats were both well shaken" and one slip was drawn from each hat to determine who inherited which land, slaves, cash, livestock, equipment, and furniture.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

In January of 1851, William drew as his own inheritance eight slaves, two mules, a horse colt, an ox, 21 hogs, eight head of cattle, four sheep, and lot 23 (250 acres). He began purchasing adjacent land, including lot 22 which had been inherited by his brother Thomas. The estate he was building would later become Birdsong Plantation.

In March of 1851 William built a one room log structure at the site of the current dwelling on Birdsong. The homesite was purchased and recorded with a deed stating "...where William J. Dickey is now building..." Later deeds refer to this six acres as "...the old home place of William J. Dickey..." The log home had a large walk-in fireplace on the west side, probably of stick and mud construction. The foundation sills of the current northwest room date to this original home.

By November of 1851, William's stepmother, Harriet, had married John Miles and she and Susan were in the Miles household; so the William Dickey home held William, Anna, their baby girl, and three of William's brothers.

William and Anna had nine additional children; five of the ten lived to adulthood. At some point after its construction, probably in the prosperous years before the Civil War, the original log home was enlarged to a 'dogtrot', two rooms with an open central passageway. The west room was the original log home, the east room was frame. The roof line of the second house is evident on the wall of the stair landing today.

The frame room across the open "dogtrot" passageway remains today as the current northeast bedroom, still retaining hand-planed boards on its exterior front wall. This larger house is indicated on the 1871 map of the Dickey place. The house had a porch across the front with banisters and a railing.

After the addition, a porch across the south (back) side of the two-room house was enclosed to form three shed rooms; two behind the original log room and one behind the east sitting room. A separate kitchen/dining room, perpendicular to the main house on the southeast was built close enough to the main house to share a common wooden gutter. The kitchen/dining room had a porch (on the west side) which extended the central dogtrot of the main house. The well was about 5 feet south of this kitchen.

One of the large pecans near the home dates from the 1850s. Family tradition states that late one afternoon, in January of 1856, Anna Dickey got up from her sewing to give instructions for supper. She had been sent some pecans, and took them out of her workbasket. Walking out to the garden, she scratched a furrow alongside the paling

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

fence, and planted six nuts. Two trees came up; one remains today. It was once a Georgia "state champion" tree (measuring 16'6" in 1985) now dethroned because of storm damage.

William kept a day book or journal of his plantation operations; nine years exist, 1858 to 1889 intermittently. The "Dickey diaries" document the agricultural activities of Dickey and his "hands", and events such as visits, "buryings", and preachings. The brief entries reflect the concerns and considerations of a mid-nineteenth century southern farmer--the weather, cotton prices, the health of family and slaves, church meetings, and the seasonal work of the plantation--hog killing, fence fixing, planting, plowing, sowing and harrowing. The earliest diary, 1858, includes references to the ginhouse shed and barn construction, and the "Bay Field" and "Ginhouse Field", designations retained today.

Agricultural activities occupied six days of the week. A variety of crops and produce are mentioned, including oats, rye, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, cabbage, collards, peas, pears, grapes, watermelons, 'ground peas' or 'pindars' (peanuts), tobacco, and rice, in addition to cotton, corn, and sugar cane. The variety of crops reflects a diversification urged on Southern farmers by newspaper editors and agricultural associations in the interest of increased self-sufficiency. The much-touted diversification was apparently achieved in southwest Georgia with the aid of the region's long growing season.

Georgia depended on the farms in its southwest to produce foodstuffs during the war, and the Dickeys' Civil War correspondence is evidence of William's agricultural concerns. Enlisting in the Thomas County Militia, William served in North Georgia, and was wounded at Griswoldville Station. Guiding Anna in the "home affairs", he sends instructions for the slaves regarding crops. To his brother Shadrach, who remained in Thomas County, he writes: "Shack you must do the best you can to keep my farm going in the right way. I cant say to you what to do as I am not there to see what is needed. Write to me & let me know how all are getting along, how the corn is growing, how the rice has come up & everything about it."

Land was cheap after the war. Many Thomas County landholders, including Dickey, not only held their lands but enlarged their holdings--the Thomas County tax book in 1860 had 16 properties of over 1,000 acres; by 1900, that had increased to 61 properties. William had acquired lands totalling over 1100 acres by 1872.

In 1873 he grew 64 acres of corn, 63 of cotton, 2.5 of sugar cane, and 7.5 of rice. Livestock consisted of 5 horses or mules, 66 hogs, 21 sheep, 30 cattle, and 6 oxen. In reaction to livestock theft, Thomas

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

County had begun recording brands in 1866; in 1869, William registered the brand of "WD", a crop in the right ear and a hole in the left.

Increased nationwide farm production after the Civil War led to low prices for farm products in the 1870s and 1880s. Prices for supplies and consumer goods did not fall as sharply, and farmers, dependent on credit, were faced with the inability to pay off their debts with the income from the year's crops. Agricultural associations, organized groups of farmers and planters sharing ideas and working for improvements, attempted to improve these conditions. William was treasurer of the 'Ochlocknee Grange No. 228' of Duncanville from 1873 to 1881. Granges, organized to bring farm families information on trends in agriculture, included women as well as men as members; Ochlocknee Grange members included William's sister Susan (Dickey) Van Brunt.

In the mid-1870s, at the peak of the movement, there were 22,000 local grange organizations in the United States. Such associations participated in economic, agricultural, and service activities. The Georgia Grange chartered a statewide bank in 1873; the Ochlocknee Grange, among its other concerns, made a donation to an "orphans house." Local granges in Thomas County also fought to control the prices of fertilizers and encourage experimental crops. Granges in the South, failing to achieve sustained economic relief, faded by the 1880s.

According to Dickey family tradition, blacks who had been sold west of the Ochlocknee River during slavery rejoined their families in Thomas County after the war, resulting in an abundance of laborers. Former slaves remained with the Dickeys as tenant farmers as tenant farming and sharecropping became the new economic pattern for the region. Fields took on the names of the family who worked them, and families lived in the area of the field they worked. In 1875, Dickey paid four black wage hands, had four blacks sharecropping, and 12 black tenant farmers; the 1871 property map indicates eight scattered, small houses that were likely tenant houses.

Thomasville became a popular winter health resort in the 1870s and 1880s for wealthy northerners. Some of the northerners purchased large plantations in the region, and the pine woods and former cotton fields became quail hunting resorts for these seasonal residents. The Dickey Plantation, however, continued as a year-round working farm and remained in the Dickey family until 1938. Beginning in 1883, William Dickey sold sections of his plantation to his children; in 1903 the Birdsong property had been reduced to its current size of 565 acres.

His son, Arthur E. Dickey married Mary Louisa Williams in 1890. Arthur brought his wife and their children to live with the widowed William

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

ca. 1893-1894, and "Minnie" named the place "Birdsong Plantation". William died in 1906, and Arthur acquired complete interest in the property from his siblings.

Arthur was the mule-and-buggy mail carrier for the rural community beginning in 1907. His sons William and Chandler handled the agricultural chores; much of Birdsong's acreage was farmed by tenants. A pecan orchard east of the home was planted in 1910.

In the early twentieth century, Birdsong produced corn, peanuts, velvet beans, oats, sweet potatoes, sugar cane, and "every kind of garden crop for food". Livestock included horses, dairy cows, beef cattle, and hogs. Cane was marketed in Cairo, the "syrup capital". Tenant farming, including cotton, occupied 250 acres. A new tenant house and barn were built in 1916. Other land, previously cultivated, grew up in pines. In 1910, Arthur sold the pine timber on the east 125 acres.

In 1912, the house underwent its third and final major change. The Dickey family had a "Mr. Pope", of Cairo, build a "new" home of heart pine cut on the property. The log walls of the west bedroom were removed and replaced with frame walls built on the same sills- except the western wall, which was moved inward 5 feet. An old crepe myrtle near the home today is said to mark the original western wall of this room. The shed rooms were removed and two rooms (kitchen and dining room) added south of the new room.

The roof was removed to provide for the addition of a half-story. The central dogtrot became an enclosed hall with a front door, a back door, and a stairway to the new second story. The northeast sitting room/bedroom and its shed room (also a bedroom) were retained.

The "new" house had columns supporting the second story which were set outside the railed front porch (photo 1). An "L" shaped back porch was added along the kitchen and south wall of the house. The former kitchen and dining room were moved straight back next to the well, and continued to be used during the construction. About 1916 this structure was moved next to the barn, where it was used as a corn crib until removed in the 1940s.

Two-story exterior brick chimneys were built at the gable ends of the house, providing fireplaces in the large upstairs rooms as well as the two north rooms. The west room of the second story was Chandler's most of the year, his older brothers being away at school. Boarders, including for some years the teacher for Bethpage School, stayed in the east room. (Bethpage was a one-room school on Birdsong property- see Site Plan, Birdsong Nature Center.)

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

Minnie Dickey died in 1922; Arthur Dickey moved to Cairo in 1930. William Dickey and Anna Dennis Dickey with their son William lived at Birdsong 1931-35; the house was rented to the Lee family in the late 1930s.

The Komareks

In the 1920s, the American Forestry Association unleashed its "Dixie Crusaders" to preach the evils of fire across the South, an effort to eliminate forest fires by eliminating all fire, regardless of purpose. Southern landowners had traditionally used burning in agricultural practices, and were no longer permitted to. The owners of game plantations in the Thomasville and Tallahassee area hired Herbert L. Stoddard of the U.S. Biological Survey (now the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) to study the resultant decline of the bobwhite quail. This Cooperative Quail Study Investigation culminated in the 1931 publication of Stoddard's The Bobwhite Quail, Its Habits, Preservation, and Increase, which included a section on the value of fire in wildlife management. The report is considered a landmark work, and Stoddard has been called the "father" of modern wildlife management.

By the early 1930s there were well over 200 hunting plantations with an average size of about 10,000 acres scattered across the southeast. Stoddard, through the Cooperative Quail Study Association (1931-1943), an organization of plantation owners, continued to observe quail and quail management practices on these southeastern plantations. Edwin V. (Ed) Komarek (born 1909), a biology student at the University of Chicago, was hired by Stoddard in 1934 to assist him in the work.

The Komareks--Ed, his brother Roy, and Ed's wife Elizabeth "Betty" Barker Komarek--purchased the 565 acre Birdsong Plantation in 1938 from the Dickeys. It was adjacent to Stoddard's property, Sherwood Plantation. Seventy-five acres were tillable but most of the rest was overgrown, abandoned fields. The Dickeys had lumbered the place in 1912 and subsequently it had grown up into almost impenetrable brush. When the Komareks purchased the property, they were eager to apply conservation practices that could return the land to a variety of habitats. As the land was cleared, shade trees were saved for their wildlife value.

The Komareks were actively involved with fire experimentation, using prescribed burning to develop and expand wildlife habitats, as was Stoddard on his property. Using fire and minor machinery to burn and clear the land, they planted grasses to create pasture for a livestock farm and set aside natural areas for wildlife. Two areas which cattle were restricted from were the wild turkey roost in the "Big Bay" area and the woods between the current office and the 1916 tenant house, to

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

the south property line. The Komareks, with advice from agricultural extension agents, engineered a conversion from row crops set out by the Dickeys' tenants, to year-round cover crops. They built up the soil by using clover and adding lime and fertilizer. They also re-established the terraces that had eroded.

The Komareks created farm ponds and bay swamps for wild turkey roosting, water bird nesting, and aquatic life in general. Pasture and wetland management led to a remarkable increase in turkeys and large flocks of white ibis, little blue herons, and snowy egrets. A 1,000-bird rookery became established in the Big Bay area and included three types of herons.

Beginning in the 1940s the Komareks developed the fields, open woodlands, ponds, and habitat diversity still dominant at Birdsong today. Worn-out farm fields were rebuilt through cover crops and rotations from 1940 to 1968, creating the first improved pastures in the area with the assistance of the Tifton, Georgia, and Quincy, Florida, agricultural experiment stations. Two hundred head of cattle grazed the approximately 400 acres of pasture. Groups of farmers visited Birdsong to study both the improved pastures and the cattle operation.

Ed and Roy (also a biologist) were asked to manage Greenwood Plantation (National Register) near Thomasville in 1945, giving them the opportunity to practice multiple-use game management on a larger scale. The development of a hybrid corn for the Deep South, in cooperation with the Georgia and Florida Agricultural Experiment Stations and the USDA, and the development of profitable sustained yield timber management through selective cutting were two results of the Greenwood program.

The six acres around the house at Birdsong were purposefully landscaped for the maximum attractiveness to a variety of birds, insects, and butterflies. Betty Komarek was influenced in her selections by Japanese landscaping ideals of beauty, using natural textures of wood, rock, and water. Plants were selected for year-round color of flowers and berries.

Betty's B.S. degree was in education, with highest honors in botany. She taught at Florida State College for Women (now Florida State University) one year, then put her experience and education to practice at Birdsong. Building on her teacher training, combined with insights from and observation of the Komarek children, Eddie and Betsy, and their friends, Betty developed educational programs for area youth groups- scouts, 4-H, school groups- and adults- teachers, scout leaders, garden clubs.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

People as well as wildlife flocked to the bird feeders and gardens of Birdsong. A double window in the dining area provided a limited view of the lushly landscaped feeder area—a barren chicken yard until the 1940s. The large plate-glass 'Bird Window' was added to the house in 1958 to facilitate group viewing. Visitors to the Komarek home to view birds at the window numbered 300-500 annually after the large widow was a feature. Betty has since designed 'bird windows' for the Tallahassee Junior Museum, Tallahassee, Florida; the gardens of Bok Towers, Lake Wales, Florida; and Tall Timbers Research Station near Birdsong in Florida, as well as several private residences.

The kitchen and adjacent bird watching windows were the sites of frequent visitors and meetings. Scientists and naturalists from around the world, attracted to the South Georgia woods by the pioneering activities in fire experimentation and wildlife management often stayed at Stoddard's Sherwood Plantation and took their meals at the Komareks' Birdsong. "It was a Sunday morning meeting place where the future development of a possible wildlife experiment station was discussed among all those scientists and interested laymen who came that way for the "coffee hours". A significant outcome of these discussions was the creation of Tall Timbers Research Station, Tallahassee, in 1958 (National Register, 1989), an ecological experimental station for research and study. Research by Tall Timbers staff and associated international fire conferences have changed the nation's thinking about the role of fire in the environment.

The Komareks were forerunners in using prescribed burning to reduce brush and restore native groundcovers. This came about through his work with Stoddard in the 1930s-1940s and the Cooperative Quail Association. This group revealed the value of fire in maintaining various habitats. Burning in different seasons produced different plans and different wildlife. By manipulating just one element, fire, they were able to predict which types of plants and wildlife would return.

Birdsong Plantation, along with nearby Sherwood and Greenwood (NR) plantations and Tall Timbers (NR), has been prominent in the development of wildlife management practices, both as the site of experimentation with prescribed burning and as the temporary home for scientists visiting the research station. The Komareks' experiences at Greenwood, Birdsong, and Tall Timbers built on and served to institutionalize Stoddard's pioneering study.

Birdsong Nature Center began operation in 1981 and in 1986 became a tax-exempt, non-profit organization. Shortly thereafter, in 1986 and 1989, the Komareks donated a total of 196 acres of the Birdsong property to the Center. The center manages the entire 565-acre tract for its education and conservation work through a lease agreement with

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

the Komarek family. The center's goals are: to provide natural history education programs for the public; to manage and preserve the land and its diverse wildlife; and to foster appreciation of nature.

In Conclusion:

Evolving from pine woods to cotton plantation, from tenant farm to cattle farm, from private home to nature center, the eras of Birdsong have each left tangible links to the past on the property. Its potential archaeological significance as the nineteenth century Dickey plantation is enriched by the existence of the letters in the Georgia Department of Archives and History and the diaries in the collections of the University of Georgia. The Dickey-Komarek home, showing three phase of its growth, maintains its 1912 integrity. The twentieth century Birdsong represents the region's strong tradition of private large-acreage conservation, the birth of modern wildlife management, the founding of Tall Timbers Research Station, the visible legacy of the Komareks on their home plantation, and the current transformation into Birdsong Nature Center.

The significance of Birdsong as an individual rural property and a cultural landscape is assured through the continued growth and success of the nature center, and would be recognized by acceptance as a National Register listed property.

9. Major Bibliographic References

The bibliography was prepared by the consultant, Gwendolyn Waldorf, for the full nomination.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Census Records:

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. The Censuses of the United States 1840-1880, 1900 Thomas County, Georgia. Population Census. Microfilm, Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta.

County Histories:

Brunton, Yvonne. Grady County Georgia: Some of its History, Folk Architecture, and Families. Jackson, Miss: Quality Printers, 1979.

Connell, Wessie; Roebuck, Frank W., Jr.; and Williams, Barbara C., ed. Gleanings: A Community's Memories of A People at the Crossroads of a Place. Cairo: Roddenbery Memorial Library, 1987.

Rogers, William Warren, Antebellum Thomas County, 1825-1861. Tallahassee: Florida State University, 1963.

Rogers, William Warren, Thomas County During the Civil War. Tallahassee: Florida State University, 1964.

Rogers, William Warren, Thomas County 1865-1900. Tallahassee: Florida State University, 1973.

County Records at County Courthouse:

Grady County, Georgia. Deed Records. Superior Court.

Thomas County, Georgia. Deed Records. Superior Court.

Thomas County, Georgia. Court of Ordinary. Annual Returns Book D (1845-1849), p. 120, p. 161-163.

Thomas County, Georgia. Court of Ordinary. Minutes Book 3 (1849-1854), pp. 127, 128, 211, 215.

Thomas County, Georgia. Court of Ordinary. Inventories & Appraisements Book H (1855-1862), p. 320, 321.

Thomas County, Georgia. Court of Ordinary. Inventories & Appraisements Book E (1849-55), p. 32, 94, 95, 96, 208-210.

Thomas County, Georgia. Court of Ordinary. Marriages, Book B (1839 to 1865), p. 193.

Thomas County, Georgia. Court of Ordinary. Record of County Officers Bonds (1852-1869), p. 73, 78.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9

Thomas County, Georgia. Court of Ordinary. Minutes, Book H
(1856-1860), p. 425.

Thomas County, Georgia. Roster of Confederate Soldiers.

Thomas County, Georgia. Marks and Brands Book A.

Gazetteers:

Sherwood, Rev. Adiel, A. M. Gazetteer of the State of Georgia.
Charleston, S.C.: 1827.

Sherwood, Adiel. A Gazetteer of Georgia. 4th edition. Macon:
S. Boykin, 1860.

Interviews:

Dickey, Chandler. Interview by Betty Komarek et al. Birdsong
Plantation, January 3, 1985. Transcript on file at Birdsong Nature
Center.

Dickey, Chandler. Interview by Gwendolyn B. Waldorf. Eatonton,
Georgia, February 17, 1989. Tape and transcript on file at Birdsong
Nature Center.

Komarek, Ed and Betty. Interview by Robert J. "Bob" Rubanowice.
Birdsong Plantation, January 14, 1988. Notes on file at
Birdsong Nature Center.

Komarek, Ed and Betty. Interview by Gwendolyn B. Waldorf.
Birdsong Plantation, January 1, 1989. Tape and transcript on file
at Birdsong Nature Center.

Maps and Plats:

Map, "A copy of original plat with houses and branches and roads
added." 1933, Grady County, Georgia. Superior Court.
Courthouse, Cairo. Plat Book 1, p. 142 & 284.

Map, Birdsong. Traced from 1952 AAA Map, May 1953.

Map, Dickey Plantation, copied by N.R. Nunnally and M.C. Prunty,
1959, from May, 1871 map by William L. Jackson, county surveyor,
Thomas County. Original 1871 map, of pencil and colored ink, on

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9

deposit in Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Collection, University of Georgia, Athens.

Map, U. S. Geological Survey, Beachton Quadrangle, 1982.

Photographs and Postcards (historic):

Aerial Surveys, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio; Photos February 21, 1947 and April 14, 1965.

Birdsong Plantation photos in the collection of Betty, E.V. and Roy Komarek.

Dickey family photos in the collection of Chandler Dickey, Eatonton, Georgia.

Personal/Family Papers:

Brewer, Alberta Trulock. "Information about my family connections and Mementos of the William J. Dickey home, 'Birdsong'", March 11, 1983; essay on file at Birdsong Nature Center.

Dickey, Chandler. Correspondence with Gwendolyn B. Waldorf, January and February 1989; on file at Birdsong Nature Center.

Dickey, Chandler. Letter to "Bruce, Teena, and Chan", written from February 9, 1973 through January 6, 1974; copy on file at Birdsong Nature Center.

Dickey, Chandler. Letter to E. V. Komarek, September 17, 1981; copy on file at Birdsong Nature Center.

Dickey, David. Letter to E. V. Komarek, April 25, 1983; copy on file at Birdsong Nature Center.

Dickey Family Letters, 1859-1865 . Georgia Department of Archives and History.

Dickey, William J., Collection. Diaries. 1858, 1859, 1879, 1884-1889; Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of Georgia Libraries, Athens.

Dickey, W. J., Treasurer's Book, Ochlocknee Grange No. 228; Treasurer's Book, Bethpage Sunday School. Georgia Department of Archives and History.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9

Komarek, E.V. Birdsong Plantation Records. Property records, 1940s. On file at Tall Timbers Research Station, Tallahassee, Florida.

Tax Digests:

William J. Dickey Tax Receipts, 1872-1883, 1887, 1888, 1906. Dickey, Atkinson, and Heirs Collection . Georgia Department of Archives and History.

Thomas County Tax Compilation 1854, 1870, 1871; Georgia Department of Archives and History.

Other:

Burleigh, Thomas D. Georgia Birds . Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1958.

Farren, Richard. "Tall Timbers carries on fiery tradition", Style Magazine , Tallahassee Democrat , October, 1990.

Fite, Gilbert C. Cotton Fields No More: Southern Agriculture 1865-1980 . Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1984.

"Foshalee Plantation." National Register Nomination Form , 1986. On file at the Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

Glassie, Henry. Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States . Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968.

Harrison, George H. The Backyard Bird Watcher . New York: Simon and Schuster, 1979.

Hilliard, Sam Bowers. Birdsong: Sequent Occupance on a Southwestern Georgia Plantation , Masters Thesis, The University of Georgia: Athens, 1961.

Komarek, E.V., "The Role of the Hunting Plantation in the Development of Game, Fire Ecology and Management", Proceedings Tall Timbers Ecology and Management Conference, February 22-24, 1979 . Tall Timbers Research Station: Tallahassee, Florida, 1982.

Komarek, E.V., Sr. Tall Timbers Research Station: A Quest for Ecological Understanding. The Secretary's Review, March 15, 1958-June

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9

30, 1975 . Tall Timbers Research Station, Miscellaneous Publication
No. 5, 1977.

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses .
New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1986.

Paisley, Clifton. From Cotton To Quail. Tallahassee:
University Presses of Florida, 1981.

Rogers, William Warren. Foshalee: Quail Country Plantation .
Tallahassee: Sentry Press, 1989.

Schutz, Mary Neal, ed. Plowing up a Storm: The History of
Midwestern Farm Activism . Nebraska Educational Television, 1985.

Stoddard, Herbert L., Memoirs of A Naturalist . Norman: University of
Oklahoma Press, 1969.

"Tall Timbers Plantation, Leon County". National Register
Nomination Form , February 22, 1989. On file at the Division of
Historical Resources, Florida Department of State, Tallahassee,
Florida.

Werndli, Phillip A. and Sharyn Thompson. Farmsteads of Northeast
Florida. A Study of the Folk Architecture of Baker, Nassau, and
Northwestern Duval Counties for Jacksonville Museum of Arts and
Sciences . Florida Preservation Services, 1985.

Williams, Ted. "Incineration of Yellowstone." Audubon ,
January 1989, pp. 38-84.

Wilson, Eugene M. Alabama Folk Houses . Montgomery: Alabama
Historical Commission, 1975.

Wyatt, Barbara, ed. & compiler. Surveying and Evaluating
Vernacular Architecture . National Register Bulletin 31
(draft). U.S. Department of the Interior National Park
Service, Interagency Resources Division. (pre-1990)

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9

ADDENDA

The above bibliography was prepared by the consultant in 1991. Since that time another book has been published which should be noted for future research:

Rubanowice, Robert J. A Sense of Place in Southern Georgia: Birdsong Plantation, Farm, and Nature Center. Tallahassee: South Georgia Historical Consortium, 1994. 358 pages. The book is written as six autobiographies, four of the Dickeyes and the two Komareks to tell the story. It is heavily footnoted and in the words of a reviewer: "provides much more to the student of history than the limited focus suggested by its title".

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
- (X) Other, Specify Repository: Birdsong Nature Center; and Tall Timbers Research Station.

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 565 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 16	Easting 767440	Northing	3400000
B) 16	E770000	N3400000	
C) 16	E770000	N3398520	
D) 16	E767450	N3398550	

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of the 565 acres shown on the enclosed Grady County, Georgia Tax Map no.53 as parcels 1 and 1.1. These parcels make up the Birdsong Plantation and Birdsong Nature Center.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is the 565 acres known as the Birdsong Plantation and Birdsong Nature Center. It is all the owners own at this location and has been an intact entity since ca. 1912, shortly after it was named "Birdsong" by a member of the Dickey family.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gwendolyn B. Waldorf, consultant, for the majority of the text; adapted and edited by Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., historian,
organization Historic Preservation Division, 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** May 5, 1995

(HPS form version 10-29-91)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property: Dickey-Birdsong Plantation
City or Vicinity: Beachton vicinity
County: Grady
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: April, 1993

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 18: Main House, Front Facade; photographer facing southeast.
- 2 of 18: Main House, Front Entrance; photographer facing south.
- 3 of 18: Main House, Front Porch; photographer facing east.
- 4 of 18: Main House, Rear Facade; photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 18: Main House, Rear Facade and Well; photographer facing north.
- 6 of 18: Main House, Rear Facade, looking toward Office/Garage; photographer facing northeast.
- 7 of 18: Main House, First Floor, Central Stair; photographer facing south.
- 8 of 18: Main House, First Floor, Back Porch; photographer facing northwest.
- 9 of 18: Main House, First Floor, Bird Room/Bird Window; photographer facing west.
- 10 of 18: Main House, First Floor, Front Bedroom; photographer facing east.
- 11 of 18: Main House, Central Stair, at Second Floor; photographer facing south.
- 12 of 18: Main House, Second Floor, Bedroom; photographer facing southwest.
- 13 of 18: Office/Garage [0 on Site Plan]; photographer facing southeast.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

14 of 18: Pump House [P on Site Plan]; photographer facing east.

15 of 18: Dickey Barn [B] on right, and Cow Shed [S] on left;
photographer facing southeast.

16 of 18: Dickey Barn [B]; photographer facing southeast.

17 of 18: Komarek Barn [K]; photographer facing northwest.

18 of 18: Dickey Tenant House; photographer facing northwest.

20
5.09
(11)
3
(6)
Ac (6)
(7)
2
(11)



DICKEY-BIRDSONG PLANTATION
GRADY COUNTY, GA
TAX MAP
NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY: ———
SCALE: ——— = 100'
NORTH: ↑

110.4 AC