

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH028279 DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED FEB 5 1976  
DATE ENTERED MAR 26 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Pharr-Callaway-Sethness House

AND/OR COMMON  
Old Pharr Place

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER State Road 2193 near intersection with county  
maintained dirt road to Norman

CITY, TOWN Tignall  
STATE Georgia  
VICINITY OF 10th - Robert G. Stephens, Jr.  
CODE 13  
COUNTY Wilkes  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 317

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sethness

STREET & NUMBER  
1500 Lake Shore Drive

CITY, TOWN Chicago  
VICINITY OF  
STATE Illinois

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Wilkes County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Washington  
STATE Georgia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
None

DATE  
\_FEDERAL \_STATE \_COUNTY \_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1860-61</u>

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Pharr-Callaway-Sethness House is a combination of two lengthwise joined structures, most likely built in the 1820's, which were moved to the present site from unknown original sites in 1860. So many alterations were made to the exteriors of these two original structures at the time of the joining in 1860-1861 that it is impossible to be certain of their original exterior appearance. In all probability, both were in keeping with a plantation plain style plan, while having certain Greek Revival features, with changes being made in the joining process which resulted in a more up-to-date Greek Revival structure.

The present location of this joined house is approximately 2½ miles north of Tignall on State Road 2193 near the intersection with a county maintained dirt road to Norman. It is on an 800 acre tract of field, pasture and wood land, the major portion of which surely consists of the acreage given by John L. Wynn to his daughter, Mary M., upon her marriage to Abram J. Pharr in 1860.

The two original structures may well have been identical in plan, having two stories, each with two rooms flanking a wide central hall. Each original structure had two exterior end chimneys, and most likely a pitched roof and front and rear shed porches. The present structure, joined in 1860-1861, has three outbuildings which have been moved up to the house, two on the northwest corner and one on the southeast corner. All three may date to the mid-19th century, though the precise dates of their attachment to the house are unknown. Two hay barns, one storage barn, a smoke house, a chicken house, a privy and a well, all of uncertain date, are scattered within a forty yard circumference of the house and suggest the workings of a moderately sized farm. The smoke house, located approximately fifty feet from the southwest corner of the house, gives the appearance of being the oldest of these outbuildings. It is a painted weatherboarded structure of 20 x 30 feet with a wide pine floor, unsealed ceiling and four, 4x6 inch beams -- on which meats were hung -- spanning the twenty foot width at a level eighteen inches below the gables.

The front or east facade of the joined house is weatherboarded with flushed siding beneath the shed porch. The double-doored entry with transom and sidelights is framed by narrow pilasters. The slightly tapered square columns of the porch are not likely original to the joining of the house and may have been changed at the same time that the jigsawed brackets and scrollwork were added to the front porch sometime before 1893 when they appear in a photograph of that date. (The scrollwork which is presently on this porch is not the weighty scrollwork which appears on both the porch and eave of the 1893 photograph.) The attachment to the southeast corner of this facade of a small outbuilding possibly of mid-19th century date with boxed returns on its exposed gable was done sometime after 1893. On this facade, as on all elevations, the symmetrically placed windows consist of six over nine panes on the second story and nine over nine panes on the first story. Identical shutter hardware remains on many of these windows, further indicating the care taken to unify the appearance of the joined house.

The north and south elevations display in their eaves four breaks, indicating the location of the original end chimneys, a fact which is puzzling, considering that the hipped roof and thus the eaves were reconstructed at the time of the joining. No trace of the original end chimneys is otherwise found on the exterior of the house due to the re-weatherboarding. The question remains as to whether or not the interior chimneys were built into the house at the time of the joining or at some point in time between 1861 and 1893 when the interior chimneys appear in the aforementioned photograph. Archaeological

(continued)

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CONTINUATION SHEET      Description      ITEM NUMBER 7      PAGE 2

investigation of the ground where the end chimneys would have been constructed would be helpful, as evidence on the interior of the house does not satisfactorily provide a solution.

The back or west side of the house, like the front, retains a porch under a shed roof. Scrollwork, identical to that added to the front porch, is also apparent here, though there are no brackets. The double-door has no transom, sidelights or classically articulating frame. The south end of the porch, judging from the supportive joists and studs, seems to have been filled in during the joining of 1860-1861, a space which between 1861 and 1893 was extended by about five feet to the south from the corner of the house. The space filled in on the north end of this porch, unlike the south end, does not have flushed siding on the wall beneath the shed roof which joins the flushed siding of the wall of the house, suggesting that this area was not enclosed until some-time after the joining of 1860-1861.

The first floor of the Pharr-Callaway-Sethness House consists of four rooms, eighteen feet square, with a ten foot wide central hall and additions to the rear shed porch and southeast corner. The second floor repeats the basic four room, central hall plan of the first floor. A half-turn stairway with landing is found at the west end of the central hall, having a mahoghany handrail with lathe-turned newel post. In all eight main rooms of the house, there are breaks in the floor where the end fireplaces were located in the two original houses.

In the wide pine boards of the floor and the wider planks of the unplastered ceilings, there is evidence of the two original structures having been seamed. There is a break in the floor halfway down the central hall, on both the first and second stories, which is paralleled by a break in the ceiling planks hidden by a batten. While it is impossible to ascertain the location of the original stairway in the house on the west or back side, there is a visible break in the southeast corner front room on the second floor which indicates a stairway built into the wall between the hall and the southeast corner room on both stories of the original structure now forming the east side or front of the house. This stair may have made a quarter-turn with winders at top and bottom, causing access to the central hall on both levels, or it may have been a straight stair with its access at the bottom being to an original shed porch and its access at the top to the south end room. It is possible that the original stairway in the west side of the house was located where the present stairway is located.

Hand split lath, visible in both the east and west portions of this joined house, indicates a date prior to 1830 for the two original structures. While the interior door leading from the southeast corner room on the first story to the attached outbuilding is four-panelled, all other interior doors are of the six-panel, cross and bible type, though there is much variation in their widths and their panels are either plain or beveled. All exterior doors are either cross and bible or six-panel, with the exception of the two sets of double doors which display four narrow horizontal panels above a single square panel on each door.

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

The mantels, which have been removed by the present owners for safekeeping, are of two types, both of which could date to around 1830. One type, originally found in the four rooms of the front or east side of the house, has narrow, beveled pilasters -- not unlike those of the main portal -- beneath a broad frieze. In stylistic terms, the second type, originally found in the four rooms of the back or west side of the house, is a transitional form evolving from a colonial bolection molding which frames the fireplace opening with a shelf placed separately some ten inches above it. Here, on these four mantels of the Pharr-Calloway-Sethness House, the space between the molding and the shelf is filled in with an entablature flanked by plain pilasters, a feature which grants the older form a Greek Revival appearance.

The wainscoting, 27 inches above the floor on the second story and 28 inches above the floor on the first floor, is alike throughout the house with the exception of eight more sharply beaded sections where breaks occur at the locations of the original end fireplaces.

If it is assumed that both original houses had identical wainscoting, then it is possible that when they were joined the chimneys were brought inside and the gaps filled with replacement wainscoting. The more likely possibility, however, is that the present wainscoting was produced for the joining of the two houses. In which case, the eight breaks indicate that initially in the joining process the plan was to keep the end chimneys. This would explain the four breaks which are seen in the eaves.

Indeed, for a time after the joining of the original houses there may have been four end chimneys. In this case, however, one would expect to find evidence in the ceiling planks around the present chimneys of holes larger than the stacks, holes which would have been cut to allow for the laying of the bricks. No such evidence exists, suggesting that the internal chimneys were built as the two houses were joined in 1860-1861. Supporting this are the facts that the cream walls and red trim of the southeast second story room could well have been painted in 1860-1861 and that in all eight rooms replastering has left no trace of the original fireplaces. The only explanation for the breaks in the eaves would then be that a change in plans occurred as the houses were being joined together, possibly for reasons of efficiency. The investigation of the ground where end chimneys would have been seems necessary.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> _PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> _LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> _RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> _1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> _ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> _LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> _SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> _1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> _AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> _ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> _LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> _SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> _1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> _EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> _MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> _SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> _1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> _ART	<input type="checkbox"/> _ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> _MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> _COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> _EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> _PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> _TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> _1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> _COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> _INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> _POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _OTHER (SPECIFY) History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> _INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES      1860      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The primary significance of the Pharr-Callaway-Sethness House resides in the fact that it is the result of the careful joining of two houses, a procedure probably made expedient by the need of John L. Wynn to provide his daughter, Mary M., with a satisfactory dwelling place as quickly as possible after her marriage to Abram J. Pharr on June 19, 1860. Abram Pharr and John Wynn were both active in the Mallorysville, Wilkes County, vigilance committee which was formed in the summer of 1860 in anticipation of conflict between the North and the South. Thus, this joined house was probably constructed with a sense of urgency.

Despite the rather difficult conditions under which the two houses were joined, every consideration was given by John L. Wynn, his daughter and son-in-law, and the unknown carpenter(s) to ensure that the resultant house would be visually and structurally unified. While the Greek Revival detailing of this joined house might seem too simply wrought for a date of 1860-1861, it is interesting to note that the house of John Wynn's brother, Samuel, built by 1840 and now destroyed, was quite similar to Mary Pharr's house and may have provided a ready model, being only five miles away.

Mary M. was John L. Wynn's only daughter by his first wife, Menierea, who died in 1843, when Mary, the eldest of their four children, was five years old. John Wynn remarried in 1847, and by 1857 he and his second wife, Ann E. Walton, had four children. John Wynn supported his brood well, listing 4,300 acres valued at \$24,250 and 75 slaves valued at \$40,000 in the 1857 Wilkes County Tax Digest. He was careful to set aside property for the four children of his first marriage, and by the 1860 Census their aggregate land value was listed as \$10,000. The value of the land on which Mary's house was built is likely reflected in her share of this large sum.

During 1862, Abram Pharr left home for the battlefields. He was killed in Virginia in 1863, probably without seeing his son, Abram J. Pharr, Jr., who was born in the same year. Mary was made Administratrix to her husband's estate, and in his estate return of 1864 she lists a payment to her father of \$791.75 which surely included the amount due on the house.

Mary was remarried by 1867 to Wylie N. Walton, a prosperous Lincoln County planter who had four children by his first marriage. They had no children of their own. Wylie Walton seems to have died by 1884, for at that time Mary Wynn Pharr Walton sought the assistance of a young woman named Mamie Sims in the management of what was now a 1,500 acre farm. (Mamie's mother, Julia Ann Walton, may well have been related to Wylie.) Abram Pharr, Jr., shortly thereafter returned from his schooling at Emory College, Oxford, Georgia, and seems to have gotten along well with Mamie Sims, as they were married in 1888. They continued to live with his mother, managing her farm. They had two children by 1892, but in 1893 Abram died. Within four years the two children were dead. Mary and Mamie continued to live in the house.

(continued)

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chambers, Margaret, personal inspections, September 24, 1975 and October 27, 1975  
 Georgia Dept. of Archives and History, Wilkes County Records-Estates, 1832-71; Tax Digests, 1857-67; Census Records, 1820-1880.  
 Macgregor, Elizabeth, personal inspection, September 24, 1975.  
 Standard, Janet Harvill, Wilkes County Scrapbook.  
 Willingham, Robert Marion, Jr., We Have This Heritage.  
 Wynn family geneology.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 131

UTM REFERENCES

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The southern boundary of the Pharr-Calloway-Sethness House site begins at a point 6,000 feet northeast of the junction of state highway 17 and state road 2193 and continues in a straight line in an east-northeast direction for approximately 1250 feet until it intersects with state road 2193. From there it follows state road 2193 in a north-northeast direction to the intersection with the county maintained dirt road to Norman. The boundary then follows in a westerly direction the dirt road to Norman for approximately 2450 feet, whereupon the boundary turns south-southwest in a straight line for approximately 3750 feet to the beginning point of the boundary.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Margaret Chambers, Intern, (Elizabeth Macgregor, Architectural Historian, Consultant)

ORGANIZATION

Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources

DATE

January 13, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

270 Washington Street, S.W., Room 703C

TELEPHONE

404-656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

DAVID M. SHERMAN

DATE

1-23-76

TITLE

Chief, Historic Preservation Section

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

DATE

7/26/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

3-25-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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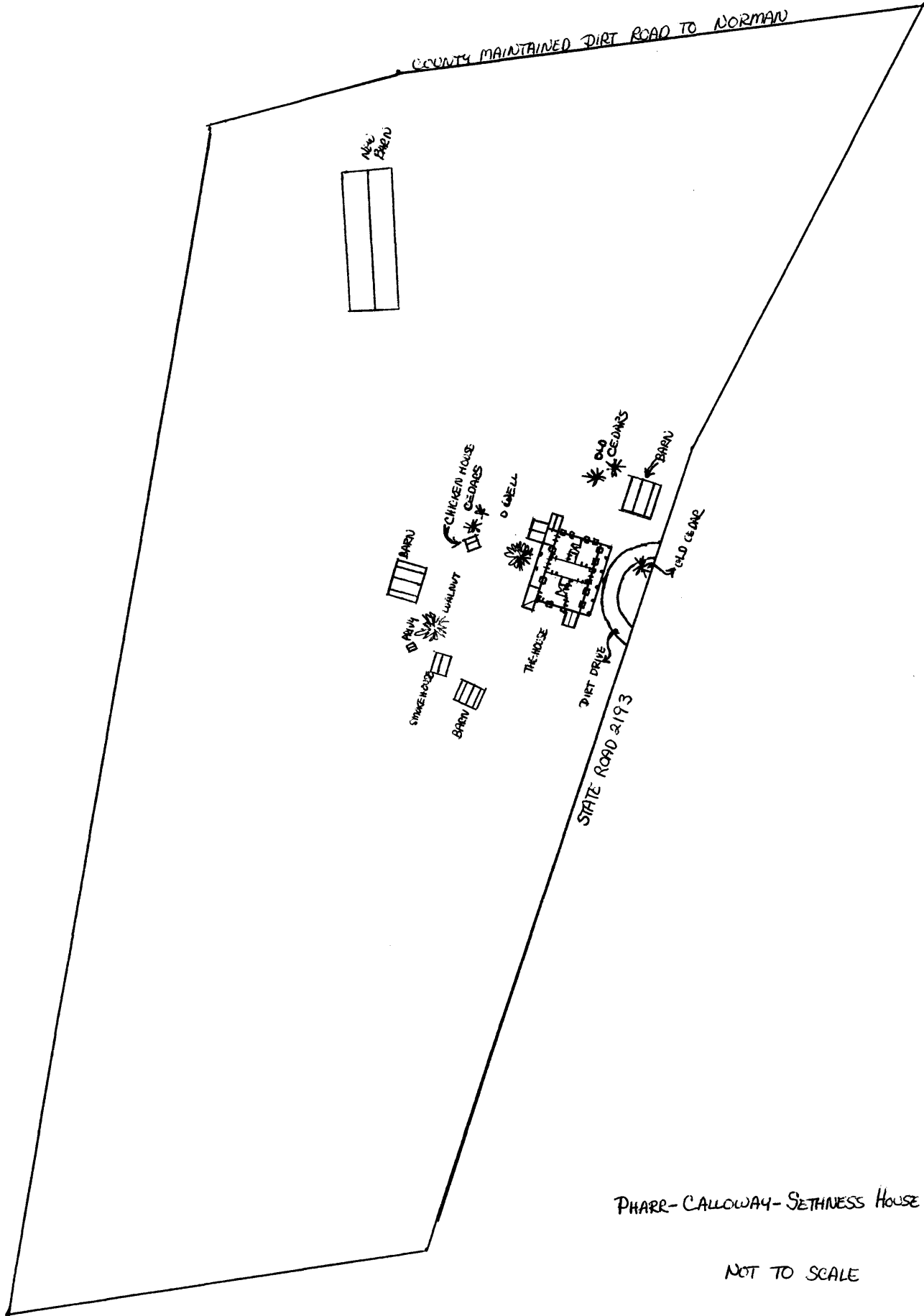
CONTINUATION SHEET    Significance    ITEM NUMBER 8    PAGE 2

Mamie remarried in 1895 to Richard D. Callaway, a widower from Washington, Georgia, who himself owned an 11,000 acre farm. Mary Wynn Pharr Walton, who died in 1899, left no will, but the land and the Pharr-Callaway-Sethness House went into Mamie Callaway's possession at her death. After Richard Callaway's death in the 1920's, Mamie moved to Washington, Georgia, but continued to manage both the Pharr-Callaway-Sethness place and her second husband's place. She was successful in her endeavors until close to her death. She sold the Pharr-Callaway-Sethness House and 800 acres of its land to Leslie Jackson in 1950, and Leslie Jackson sold it to the present owners in 1973.

Not since Mamie moved to Washington has the Pharr-Callaway-Sethness House been lived in by its owner, a fact which has probably contributed to its worsening condition. It is the intent of its present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sethness, to restore it to the condition it was in in 1861, when Mary Wynn and Abram Pharr, Sr., began their married years there.

10 Geographical Data:

	Latitude	Longitude
NW	33° 56' 14"	82° 44' 12"
NE	33° 56' 14"	82° 43' 37"
SE	33° 55' 33"	82° 43' 37"
SW	33° 55' 33"	82° 44' 12"



COUNTY MAINTAINED DIRT ROAD TO NORMAN

NEW BARN



BARN

PINE



SPRINGHOUSE



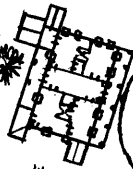
BARN

WALNUT



CHICKEN HOUSE

D WELLS



THE HOUSE



BARN

OLD CEDARS



BARN

OLD CEDARS

DIRT DRIVE

STATE ROAD 2193

PHARR-CALLOWAY-SETHNESS HOUSE

NOT TO SCALE



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PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES --| ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Pharr-Callaway-Sethness House

AND/OR COMMON

Old Pharr Place

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Tignall

VICINITY OF

Wilkes

COUNTY

STATE

Georgia

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE Margaret Chambers

SCALE

Not to Scale

DATE December, 1975

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES