

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number:** 97000249

**Date Listed:** 7/25/97

Harris, Corra White, House, Study,  
and Chapel

Bartow  
County


GEORGIA  
State

**Property Name**

N/A

**Multiple Name**

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

9/5/97  
Date of Action

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

Section No. 10

The UTMs for this property are:

- A) Zone 16 Easting 706520 Northing 3805600
- B) Zone 16 Easting 706240 Northing 3805220
- C) Zone 16 Easting 705900 Northing 3805180
- D) Zone 16 Easting 705880 Northing 3805560

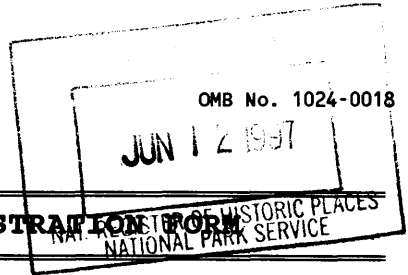
See continuation sheet, attached.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

Resubmission

97-249



**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 Corra White Harris House, Study, and Chapel  
other names/site number In the Valley

**2. Location**

street & number 659 Mt. Pleasant Road, NE  
city, town Rydal (N/A) vicinity of  
county Bartow code GA 015  
state Georgia code GA zip code 370171

(N/A) not for publication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	5	2
sites	0	0
structures	1	0
objects	0	0
total	6	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.

*Mark R. Edwards*

Signature of certifying official

*6/03/97*

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

*Ma J. M. [Signature]*

*7/25/97*

( ) determined eligible for the National Register

( ) determined not eligible for the National Register

( ) removed from the National Register

( ) other, explain:

( ) see continuation sheet

*So*

Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

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## **6. Function or Use**

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### **Historic Functions:**

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/secondary structure/study  
RELIGION/religious facility  
FUNERARY/grave

### **Current Functions:**

DWELLING/single dwelling  
RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

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## **7. Description**

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### **Architectural Classification:**

OTHER/log cabin  
OTHER/stone single-pen

### **Materials:**

<b>foundation</b>	stone, brick
<b>walls</b>	stone, wood
<b>roof</b>	metal
<b>other</b>	concrete

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

The Corra Harris House, Study, and Chapel complex includes: a mid-19th-century log single-family house; a c.1915 log building used as a study and library where Corra White Harris wrote; a stone chapel, built in 1935, constructed of local stone; and a barn and outbuilding. The complex is situated on a hilltop in rural northeast Bartow County near the town of Rydal. The view from the complex includes rolling hills and pine trees.

According to the Georgia: The WPA Guide to its Towns and Countryside, the center block of the house was built c.1830 by a Cherokee chieftain named Pine Log. In 1913, Harris purchased approximately 200 acres in rural Bartow County, including the c.1830 house, to develop a retreat. The round logs of the one-and-a-half-story central block of the house are chinked with concrete and joined at the corners by overlapping saddle notches. The house rests on a high stone foundation constructed c.1913 when the north wing was added to the house.

The c.1913 wing addition to the north of the central block is constructed with square-hewn logs chinked with concrete and joined at the corners by overlapping square notches. The house rests on a stone foundation, built c.1913, level with the central block and a stone chimney is located along the northern gable-end wall. Other architectural features include exposed rafter tails located under the

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wide overhanging eaves and six-over-six double-hung windows with board-and-batten shutters.

An enclosed breezeway connects the central block to the southern-wing addition. Both the enclosed breezeway and wing addition are constructed with the same square-notched logs and cement chinking as in the northern-wing addition. This section of the house is situated lower than the rest of the house and a concrete retaining wall is located in front of the addition. The two gable-end chimneys are brick and wooden square columns support a shed porch. Six-over-six double-hung windows continue throughout the enclosed breezeway and addition.

A description of the interior of the house is not provided since access was not permitted by the owner.

Located to the north of the Corra White Harris House is the study she built in 1915 to provide space to write. The study is a single-pen gable-front building constructed with square-hewn logs chinked with concrete and joined at the corners by overlapping square notches, similar to the additions of the Corra White Harris House. A full-width porch supported by round wooden columns is located beneath the front-gabled roof and an attic with a door is located in the front gable above the porch. The pressed metal roof has wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails, and a brick chimney is located in the gable-end. Six-over-six double-hung windows with board-and-batten shutters are located in the front- and rear-gable ends. The building is supported by brick and stone piers. The interior features wood paneling, a brick fireplace, and built-in and freestanding bookshelves.

The chapel, constructed in 1935 by three of her nephews as a memorial after Corra White Harris's death, is built of native stone from the property. The chapel is a front-gabled building with a front portico, iron bar front door, and multi-pane casement windows. A low stone retaining wall extends north and south away from the front portico. The interior of the one-room chapel includes: a raised, stone platform along the east wall; inset, wooden, glass display cases on either side of the front door; exposed ceiling and rafter trussing system; and a stone-slab grave marking the burial site of Corra White Harris.

An early 20th-century barn is located just south of the chapel and stone wall. The barn is clad with weatherboard and has a standing seam metal roof. Architectural features include overhanging eaves with vents located along the cornice, exposed rafter tails and brackets, multi-pane awning windows, sliding doors in the gable and eave walls, and a wooden door at the loft level in the gable wall.

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A small early 20th-century outbuilding is located to the southwest of the barn. The outbuilding is a gable-front building constructed with square-hewn logs chinked with concrete and joined at the corners by overlapping square notches. The roof is standing seam metal and a full-width porch is supported by square stone columns located beneath the front-gabled roof.

Two small nonhistoric outbuildings are located near the main house and consist of a small shed and garage.

The complex of buildings lack any formal landscaping; however, the placement of the buildings creates a courtyard located in the center of the complex. The courtyard consists of grass with various hardwood trees. Outside the boundary of the complex, the rural setting continues with rolling hills of overgrown grass and forests.

The house is owned by a private property owner and the chapel and study are owned and maintained by the Bartow History Center, a local non-profit organization.

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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):**

LITERATURE

**Period of Significance:**

1913 to 1935

**Significant Dates:**

1913    Property purchased by Corra White Harris.  
1915    Construction of log study.  
1935    Construction of stone chapel.

**Significant Person(s):**

Corra White Harris

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

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

N/A

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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)**

The Corra White Harris House, Study, and Chapel complex is nationally significant in literature for its direct historical association with Corra White Harris (1869-1935), a nationally famous writer popular during the early 20th century. She is best known for her novel, A Circuit Rider's Wife (1910), which was loosely based on her life as a Methodist minister's wife and made into the film I'd Climb the Highest Mountain. Harris wrote fourteen novels, many articles and stories, and hundreds of book reviews. Most of her writing was conducted at the complex in the study she built on her property. All of her novels were published serially in magazines such as the Saturday Evening Post, Ladies Home Journal, and Pictorial Review. She has been recognized with many awards and honorary degrees from the University of Georgia, Oglethorpe University, and Rollins College. In 1932, she received the George Fort Milton Award for outstanding contribution to southern writing.

In 1913, Harris purchased 200 acres in rural Bartow County for her home and retreat which she call "In the Valley." This property is the only remaining place directly associated with Corra White Harris during her professional writing career. Harris felt that her retreat provided inspiration for many of her writings which documented Georgia's rural life.

**National Register Criteria**

The Corra White Harris House, Study, and Chapel complex is eligible under National Register Criterion B for its direct association with the nationally known writer, Corra White Harris.

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

**Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance for the Corra White Harris House, Study, and Chapel complex begins 1913 with the purchase of the property by Corra White Harris and ends in 1935, the year of her death. The complex of buildings maintains its ability to convey the significance of Corra White Harris through its historic integrity of location, association with Corra White Harris from 1913 to 1935, and historic setting. The additions and alterations completed to the main house in



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1913-1915, the construction of the c.1915 study, and the construction of the 1935 chapel retain integrity of design, workmanship, and materials.

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

The contributing five buildings and one structure were built within the period of significance and maintain historic integrity. The 5 contributing buildings consist of the main house, the chapel, the study, barn, and outbuilding/shed. The one contributing structure is the stone wall located near the chapel. The two noncontributing buildings consist of a modern shed and garage.

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

Corra May White was born on her family's plantation, Farm Hill, six miles from Ruckersville, Elbert County, Georgia on March 17, 1869. She was the eldest daughter of Tinsley Rucker White, who was a Confederate veteran, and of Mary Elizabeth Mathews White. She had only 36 months of formal schooling; most of her schooling was conducted by her mother. Corra May White concluded her education at the Elberton Female Academy where she received a first-grade license to teach school at the age of sixteen. Her first job teaching Composition was in a Banks County school.

On February 8, 1887, she married Lundy Howard Harris. The two married not long after Lundy Harris graduated from Emory University in Oxford, Georgia, the former location of Emory University. He was licensed to preach by the North Georgia Methodist Conference and his first assignment was in the Redwind circuit in Hart County, Georgia. That same year, after the birth of their daughter, Lundy Harris accepted a position with a Methodist church in Decatur, DeKalb County, Georgia. A year later, Lundy Harris was offered and accepted a position teaching Greek at Emory University. Corra White Harris enjoyed living in Oxford and taught a Sunday school class for several of the Emory University students. However, Corra Harris found herself alone with her daughter many nights due to her husband's teaching schedule so she started to write. Two of her early short stories, the "Darwinkle's Dream" and the Nicodemus Topinglow," were printed by the Atlanta Constitution and the New Orleans Picayune.

Following Lundy Harris's appointment to Emory University, the family's life turned tragic. During the years after her husband's appointment, Harris's two sons died at early ages, her husband committed suicide in 1910, and her daughter died at the age of 31. During these hard years, Harris maintained her life through her writings. In 1899, she

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was introduced to a national audience when the Independent, a New York journal, published an article she had written attacking northern condemnation of the practice of lynching in the South. The piece created a lively debate and began her ten-year association with the Independent, for which she wrote articles, short stories, and book reviews. Harris was sent to Europe by the Saturday Evening Post in 1911 and again in 1914 as the first woman war correspondent. As Harris continued her professional writing career, she turned towards writing novels. Between 1910 and 1926 she wrote 14 novels. One of her earlier and most famous novels is A Circuit Rider's Wife, written while she was living in Nashville, Tennessee in 1910. The novel was printed in serial form in the Saturday Evening Post. The novel was loosely based on Harris's experiences during the first year of her marriage to Lundy Harris while he was working in the Redwind circuit in Hart County, Georgia. The novel was made into a major motion picture titled I'd Climb the Highest Mountain. She perpetuated the circuit-rider theme with two other novels. As a whole, these novels attacked the practices and tenets of the Methodist church. Her later novels addressed industrial progress, the feminist movement, and the trials of marriage.

Shortly after her husband's death, Harris took a trip to Pine Log, Georgia. While walking through the woods, she discovered an abandoned Native-American cabin and decided to build her home/retreat around the building. She chose the location because she wanted to live in her native Georgia but be close to her daughter in Nashville. She arranged for Mr. Paul Akin, a lawyer in Cartersville, Georgia, to handle the purchase of the land for her. She completed the purchase of the property in 1913 and named her place "In the Valley". Harris hired a contractor from Cartersville to complete needed renovations and to build a home for her daughter, Faith, and son-in-law. However, Faith passed away before the home was started.

Harris devoted her last years to writing an autobiography and a tri-weekly column for the Atlanta Journal. Harris received numerous honors for her writings. She died on February 7, 1935 at the age of 65. Corra White Harris's writings are important and valuable for their personal observations and information about the rural South, especially Georgia.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Cunyus, Lucy Josephine. The History of Bartow County. Bartow County, Georgia: Tribune Publishing Co., 1933.

Jolley, Clyde W. "Corra Harris." Georgia Life Spring 1980: 22-23.

Keeler, O.B. "Corra Harris Takes First Rest in 27 Years." Atlanta Journal-Constitution Magazine February 22, 1925.

Rogers, Michele. "Corra White Harris House, Study, and Chapel Complex ("In the Valley")," Historic Property Information Form, August 31, 1995. On file at the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, with supplemental information.

Talmadge, John E. Corra Harris: Lady of Purpose. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1968.

Tate, William. "A Neighbor's Recollections of Corra Harris." The Georgia Review Spring 1951: 1-12.

"Corra Harris Laid to Rest." The Tribune News February 14, 1935.

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):

N/A

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** Approximately 57 acres.

**UTM References**

A) Zone 16 Easting 705480 Northing 3805880

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Corra White Harris House, Study, and Chapel complex is drawn to scale on the attached tax maps with a heavy black line.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary for the Corra White Harris House, Study, and Chapel complex encompasses the remaining extant historic buildings located on the remaining historic acreage associated with Corra White Harris's retreat.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**name/title** Michele Rogers/Director  
**organization** Bartow History Center  
**street & number** P.O. Box 1239  
**city or town** Cartersville **state** Georgia **zip code** 30120  
**telephone** (770) 382-3818 **date** August 31, 1995

**name/title** Amy Pallante/National Register Specialist  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**street & number** 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forysth Street  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303  
**telephone** (404) 651-6033 **date** June 1997

(HPS form version 10-29-91)

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Photographs

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**Name of Property:** Corra White Harris House, Study, and Chapel  
**City or Vicinity:** Rydal  
**County:** Bartow  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** December, 1995

**Description of Photograph(s):**

- 1 of 14 View of Corra White Harris House; photographer facing southwest.
- 2 of 14 View of central block of the Corra White Harris House; photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of 14 View of Corra White Harris House addition; photographer facing southwest.
- 4 of 14 View of the study, photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 14 View of front facade of the study; photographer facing north.
- 6 of 14 View of rear facade of the study; photographer facing southeast.
- 7 of 14 View of the interior of the study.
- 8 of 14 View of the chapel; photographer facing northeast.
- 9 of 14 View of the chapel; photographer facing southeast.
- 10 of 14 View of chapel and study; photographer facing north.
- 11 of 14 View of the interior of the chapel; photographer facing west.
- 12 of 14 View of the interior of the chapel; photographer facing east.
- 13 of 14 View of barn; photographer facing southeast.

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Photographs

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14 of 14 View of outbuilding; photographer facing southwest.

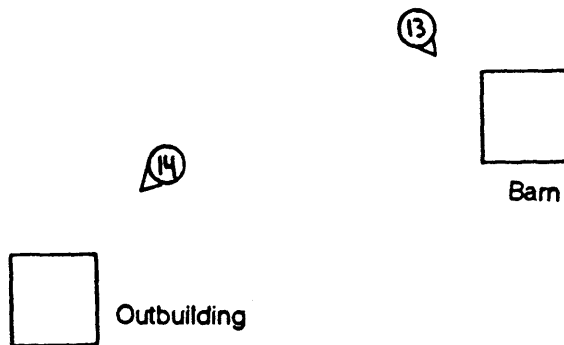
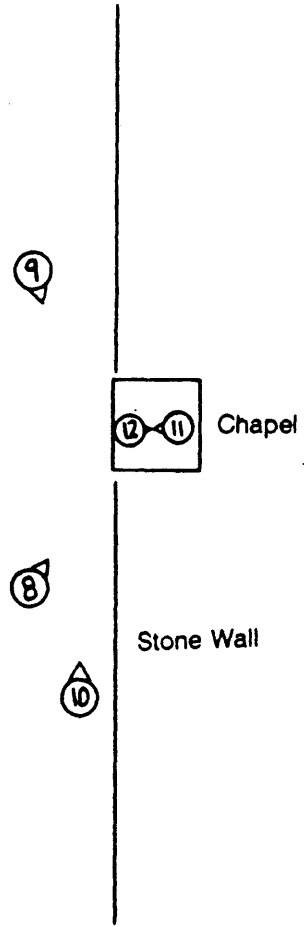
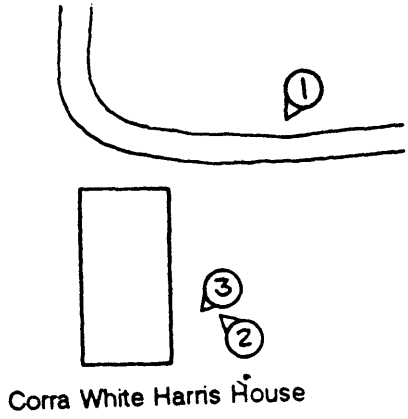
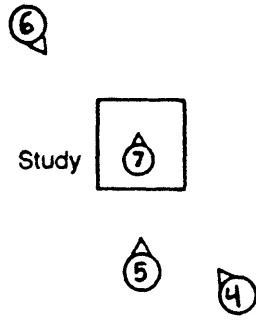


**Site Plan and Photo Key**

Corra White Harris House, Study, and Chapel  
Rydal, Bartow County, Georgia

Not to Scale

○ Photo Number and Direction



**National Register Boundary Map**

Corra White Harris House, Study, and Chapel

Rydal, Bartow County, Georgia

Bartow County Tax Map 86

Scale 1"=400'

National Register boundary is marked by a heavy black line.

