

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JUL 6 1976

DATE ENTERED OCT 14 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 Chennault House *hbr*

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *NE of Danburg out of Ga 4 road S A 79*  
(mailing address - Route 1, Danburg, Georgia)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Chennault Danburg *vic*

VICINITY OF

10th - Robert G. Stephens, Jr.

STATE

Georgia

CODE  
13

COUNTY  
Lincoln

CODE  
181

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. and Mrs. Paul Prater

STREET & NUMBER  
Route 1

CITY, TOWN

Danburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Lincoln County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lincolnton

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The Chennault House is located in Lincoln County approximately twelve and one fourth miles northwest of Lincolnton, Georgia, on Georgia Highway 44 (the Old Petersburg Road) northwest of the intersection with Georgia Highway 79 (the old Augusta Road). It is a two story, late Greek Revival frame weatherboard house, c.1850, with high pitched gabled roof, a full width two-story portico and two central chimneys, serving eight interior fireplaces.

The exterior of the house retains the integrity of the original structure, despite the early twentieth century additions to the back of the house. The boxed returns on the pitched roof define the depth of the front portico and gallery as well as the sill line of the single attic window openings on each of the two roof gables. The present owners have recently completed the repainting of the exterior, having repaired the front porch columns and having removed multiple layers of paint from the siding and the exterior frames of the windows and doors.

The acreage on which the house is located consists of pasture land and wood land along Neuford Creek which had been accumulated by the Chennault family by 1890.

The southern elevation of the house, the facade facing the road, displays an uncluttered five-bay symmetry dependent upon the central placement between columns of transomed doorways with side lights on the first and second floors, doorways which are surrounded on both sides by two additional columnar apertures which frame shuttered double, large paned, four over four windows on the first floor and two single, six over six shuttered windows on the second floor. The six square, Tuscan-Doric columns of the porch rhythmically complement this arrangement, with the distance between the two middle columns being somewhat greater than the remaining columnar spacings, effectively emphasizing the main entrance with its slightly pedimented lintel. The use of wide vertical corner-boards, suggestive of pilasters, on either end of this facade echoes the corner porch columns, reiterating their supportive function. The dentils beneath the eave, the thin horizontal molding of the entablature and the railing of the full gallery visually bind together the vertical elements of this facade.

The original east and west elevations are identical.

In each of the two first floor front rooms, the double windows of the front facade occur on the side facades as well. Visually, the emphasis of either the east or west elevation is on the articulation of the side of the front portico, with its balcony, end-column, corner-board and the continuation of the dentils beneath the boxed return.

The northern elevation manifests additions made to the house in 1918 by one of its occupants, John Oliver Chennault. The original double doors of the entrance to the central hall on the first floor of this elevation were at that time replaced with double doors each having six horizontal panels, and the central hall window on the second floor was replaced by a doorway leading into a small room which was added at the same time. A further addition, made to the west side of this elevation, enlarged the back rooms at the northwest corner of the house on both floors and joined the kitchen to the main house. The width of the original back porch is indicated by a broad vertical board built into the fabric of the original north wall and visible approximately three feet to the left of the first floor entrance. The single window on the east side of the first floor of this north elevation and the evidence on the interior of the second floor of a single window originally located above the single first floor window indicates that the original arrangement across this facade was of a single window on each side of the central doorway on the first floor and of

(Cont.)

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a single window on each side of the central hallway window on the second floor.

Originally, there may have been a carriage shelter connecting directly to the northeast corner of the back porch, with the kitchen located a short distance from the northwest corner of the back porch. The outbuilding which is presently located ten yards to the rear of the house is not in its original location and appears to have been constructed in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Other outbuildings consist of a hay barn and low shed of uncertain 19th century date located in a field approximately 45 yards to the northeast of the house, a second small house of late nineteenth century date located approximately 100 yards to the north northeast of the house and four barns and shed mostly of 20th century date scattered approximately 150 yards to the north and northwest of the house. None of these structures obscure the view of the Chennault House.

The original first floor of the Chennault House consisted of four rooms flanking a central hall, the hall having a straight stairway and portals at opposite ends. The two front rooms are eighteen feet square, while the two at the back were both originally eighteen by twelve feet. All the interior mantels are original except the two in the front and rear first floor rooms on the west side, changed to tall, bracketed oak mantels during the 1918 alterations. The original mantels are characteristic of c.1850, having a plain frieze supported by wide pilasters. The original mantel of the east side front room is further articulated by the addition of a round-headed panel within each pilaster. Closets flank the chimneys in three of the four first floor rooms. The original pine floor boards, while they have been retained on the second floor, have been overlaid on the first floor with oak boards narrower than those of the original floor. The double windows in the two front rooms on this story surely belong to the original fabric of the house, for the interior moldings around these windows consist of plain pilasters which rise from the floor to the top of each pair of windows, an unadorned form which is repeated in the door frames in these two rooms and which compliments well the overall simplicity apparent in the decorative detailing of this house.

The second floor originally repeated the arrangement of the first floor, though the 1918 additions have here expanded not only the room on the northwest corner, but have resulted in a small room off the end of the central hall and a porch off the north east corner entered by a door cut from the original single window opening on the north wall of the northeast corner room. A flight of stairs leading to the attic is entered through a door to the right of the chimney in the northeast corner room. Plaster board has recently been used by the present owners in the front and back rooms of the west side of this floor to replace the lath and plaster which was removed for the purpose of wiring the house.

The attic is unfinished, and two upright supports placed halfway down each slope of the roof are braced to rafters, purlins and tie beams by pegged four by fours. In 1918 two iron bands parallel to the tie beams attached to the purlin located halfway down each slope so as to counteract any outward thrust caused by the weight of the roof.

# 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            1855-60

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Chennault House resides in its architecture as well as in its association with local history just prior to and during the Civil War. Evidence from the estate records of Lincoln County indicates that the Chennault family settled in Lincoln County in 1822 and Abraham, the son of that original settler, married in 1823 and himself settled in the vicinity of the spot where the Chennault House was eventually built. Francis, Abraham's wife, gave birth to three sons before Abraham's death in 1832. Francis remarried in 1837, but her second husband died in 1844. In 1847, her eldest son, John N. Chennault, married and began residing on lands given to him by his mother from his father's estate. Francis' second son died in 1853 at age 25, an event which Francis and the whole family must have found upsetting. These facts must be mentioned as background to the third and youngest son's activities over the next few years.

According to the County's Tax Digests, this third son, Abraham D. Chennault, who was already married by 1850, was finally granted by his mother his rightful land from his father's estate in 1853, the year of his older brother's death. Abraham D. left Lincoln County during 1854 and 1855, however, perhaps in quest of training as a Methodist evangelist, for he was elected as a local preacher by the South Georgia Conference of the Methodist Church in 1865, the same year that legend has it a shipment of confederate gold hastily being returned to Richmond was ransacked as the wagon train camped on the Chennault's land.

In any event, the significant documentary evidence concerning the construction of the Chennault House relates to the tax digest entries of Abraham D. for the years 1856 and 1857, during which time his free and solvent monies decrease by \$1710.00, suggesting that this excess may well have gone towards the construction of his new house, the Chennault House. Francis' and Abraham D.'s census entries are listed separately in 1860, giving evidence that she never moved into her son's new house. However, she apparently in some sense held a mortgage for him on that portion of his land on which the house was built as she stated in her will of 1865 that he was to get the land he lived on and as the inventory and appraisal on her estate lists the payment of a note in the amount of \$386.66 in behalf of her son, Abraham. Shortly, after his mother's death, Abraham D. left Lincoln County, leaving his lands and house to his brother, John N. Chennault.

The major architectural significance of the Chennault House resides in its relationship to three other houses, the Willis-Sale-Stennett House in Wilkes County, the Matthews House in Lincoln County, and the Anderson House in Wilkes County, Georgia. (See National Register Nominations for all three). All four houses are found within a six mile radius, but their properties are not contiguous, and thus as a group they do not form a district in the usual sense. As a group, however, they do form a stylistic development which is most probably attributable to the influence of a single master builder in the years just before and after the Civil War.

(cont.)

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chambers, Margaret, Personal inspection, September 24, 1975 and October 27, 1975  
 Georgia Department of Archives and History, County Records - Estates, 1822-1922; Tax Digests, 1838-1867; Deeds, 1822-1919; Census Records, 1820-1880.  
 Macgregor, Elizabeth, personal inspection, September 24, 1975.  
 Newsome, Nell and F.M., Wilkes County Cemeteries.  
 Andrews, Ernest M., Georgia's Fabulous Treasure Hoards.  
 Knight, Lucian Lamar, Georgia's Landmarks, Memorials and Legends. (cont.)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 138 approximately

UTM REFERENCES

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The eastern corners of the boundary of the Chennault House is located at the intersection of State Highways 44 and 79. From thence the boundary follows in a straight approximately 1750 feet in a northwesterly direction to the northernmost corner of the boundary where it turns in a southwesterly direction, making a straight line of approximately 2980 feet to the westernmost corner of the boundary at the intersection of this segment of the boundary with an unimproved dirt road. The boundary takes a turn to the southeast following this dirt road for approximately 1600 feet, and then continuing in a straight line to the intersection

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES (cont.)

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Margaret Chambers, Intern (Elizabeth Z. Macgregor, Architectural Historian, Consultant)  
 ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources February 11, 1976  
 STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

270 Washington Street, S.W., Room 703-C  
 CITY OR TOWN

404-656-2840  
 STATE

Atlanta

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

TITLE

Chief, Historic Preservation Section

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 ATTEST:

DATE

Keeper of the National Register  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

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While documentary evidence indicates that the Willis-Sale-Stennett House was completed in 1857, the documentary evidence for the Matthews House indicates that it was completed by 1861. Likewise, the Chennault House seems to have been begun between 1857 and 1858, and the Anderson House between 1865 and 1870. Thus there is the likelihood based on the documentary evidence that, while the construction of the Chennault House was probably begun before the construction of the Matthews House, for a time these two were being worked on simultaneously.

The stylistic evidence supports the documentary evidence. On the basis of stylistic analysis, the Willis-Sale-Stennett House is most reasonably understood as the first built in the series, being a fairly predictable example of the late Greek Revival style. The second in the series, upon this visual analysis, would then seem to be the Chennault House, which is similar in appearance to the Willis-Sale-Stennett House, but which emphasizes the fact that the full width, two story portico is built into the fabric of the house -- rather than forming an appendage to the house -- by the visual assertion of boxed returns, on the gables, which delineate the depth of the portico beneath the roof. The plan of the Chennault House is more regular than the Willis-Sale-Stennett House due to the placement of the stairway in the Chennault House in the central hall rather than in an enclosed area to one side of the central hall as in Willis-Sale-Stennett House. The result of this irregularity in the plan of the Willis-Sale-Stennett House is that the two bays on the east end of the portico are somewhat wider than those on the west end, an irregularity which does not occur with the Chennault House. Further, an uncommon feature in the late Greek Revival house, the use of tall double windows, occurs on the first story of the Chennault House.

The Matthews House is an appropriate third in this series, as it is but a variation on the Chennault House, especially in the visual complexity of its decorative detailing which exceeds the simplicity of both the Willis-Sale-Stennett House and the Chennault House. The Anderson House, as the fourth in this series, when compared with the Willis-Sale-Stennett House, is seen as retaining the massive girth combined with the use of many large windows to open up the walls -- features of all four houses -- but as otherwise being indicative of new trends in architectural form. Indeed, while the use of double windows on the Chennault and Matthews Houses is an indication of the influence of Victorian architectural forms upon the pre-existent late Greek Revival style, exemplified by the Willis-Sale-Stennett House, the addition of brackets and lattice work to the entablature of the Anderson House portico is evidence of the increasing influence of the Victorian on the late Greek Revival immediately after the Civil War.

John Cunningham, the carpenter living with the Matthews in 1860 according to the Census, may well have been one of the carpenters if not the master builder, who worked on the first three houses of this sequence of four. In 1860, he was thirty years old and at age twenty-three and twenty-four in 1853 and 1854 Joseph F. Matthews acted as his agent in the paying of his poll tax. This does not mean that John Cunningham was necessarily residing with the Matthews at that time, but it does imply that Cunningham was at least in the vicinity. In 1855, a William Stokes, living in the same District as the Matthews,

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acts as Cunningham's Agency, but in 1856 and 1857 Cunningham pays his own tax and is livibg by himself, though still in the Matthews' District (the Goshen District of Lincoln County). The tax records are lost from 1859 and 1860, but the 1861 Tax Digest does not list John Cunningham in either the Goshen District or any adjacent District.

The implication is that his carpentry work in the ares in which these four houses were built was completed in 1861. It is quite possible that as an inexperienced artisan in his early twenties this John Cunningham worked on the Willis-Sale-Stennett House, learning the essentials of the Greek Revival vocabularly. With greater confidence he alone may have handled the commissions of the Chennaults and Matthews, successfully experimenting with architectural forms as he worked. A two man treadle saw, which the Wayne Matthews have given to the Washington, Georgia, museum, may have been of Cunningham's making. Certainly, that Cunningham disappears from local records in 1861 supports local tradition that these three houses were done before the Civil War.

Whether the builder of the Anderson House was someone who had worked with John Cunningham or was someone who was influenced solely by the results of Cunningham's work can probably never be determined. One Danburg tradition states that a black carpenter directed the building of the Anderson House, and curiously ten black carpenters or brick masons appear in the 1870 Wilkes and Lincoln County census records. But, regardless of the identity of the builder(s); these four houses form a valuable sequence, both aesthetically pleasurable and instructively useful.

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Lane, Mary F. House, "Some Incidents of the Civil War as Related by an Eye Witness", unpublished reminiscences.  
Saggus, Charles, A Social and Economic History of the Danburg Community, M.A. thesis. United Methodist Church, Commission on Archives and History, Lake Junaluska, N.E., South Georgia Conference Records.  
Willingham, Robert Marion, We Have This Heritage.

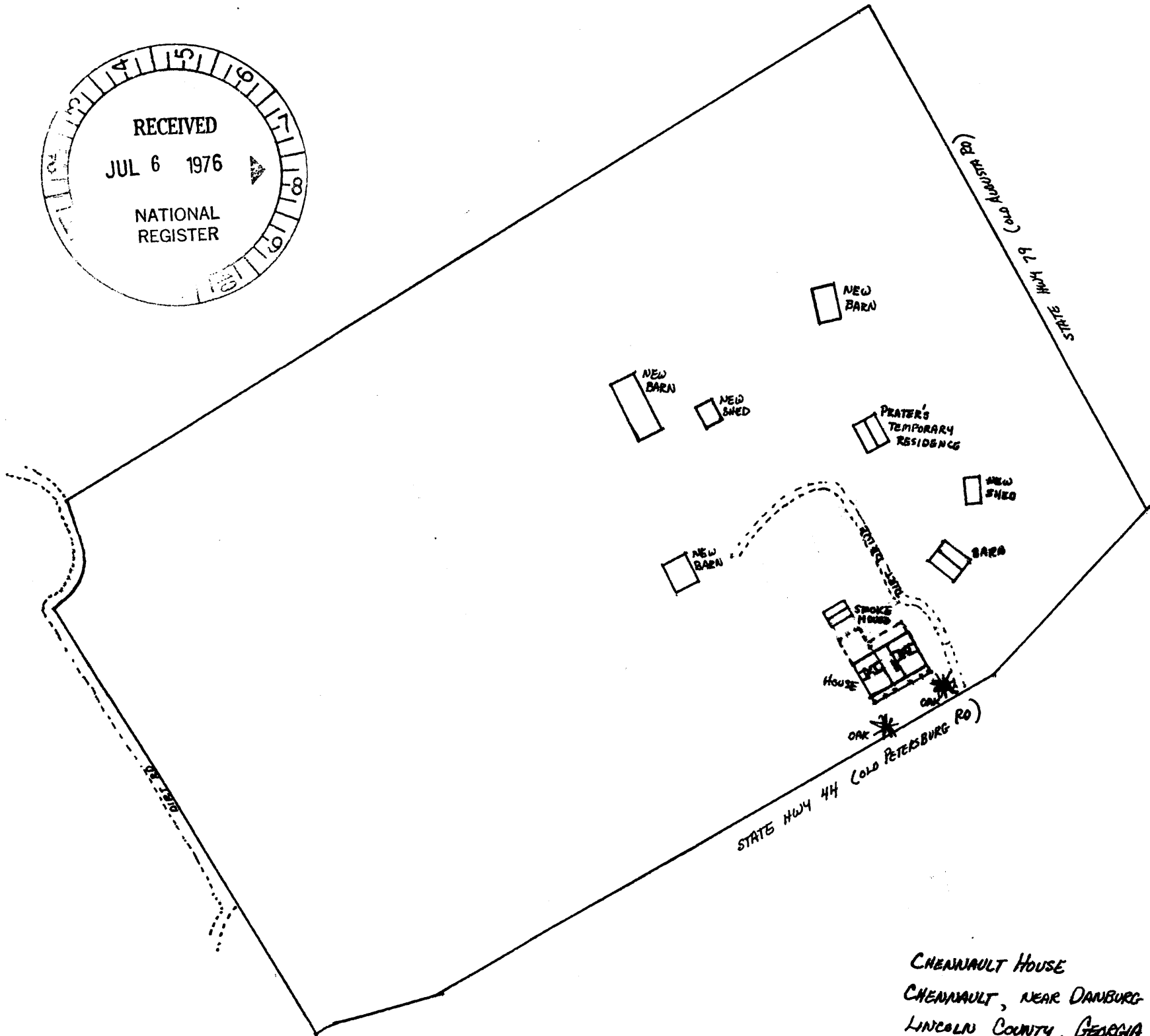
Geographical Data Item 10 Page 2

	Latitude	Longitude
NW	33° 54' 40"	82° 36' 48"
NE	33° 54' 40"	82° 36' 09"
SE	33° 54' 05"	82° 36' 09"
SW	33° 54' 05"	82° 36' 48"

Verban Boundary Description Item 10 Page 2

with State Highway 44, an additional 500 feet. From thence the boundary follows in a northeasterly direction along State Highway 44 to the beginning point of the boundary.





CHEANVAULT HOUSE  
CHEANVAULT, NEAR DANBURG  
LINCOLN COUNTY, GEORGIA  
NOT TO SCALE

NPS Number 10.14.76

Title: Chennault House

Lincoln Co., Georgia

Loc. sketch map of property

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**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**