

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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NOT FOR PUBLICATION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

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- 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

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

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.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

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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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

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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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliographical ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

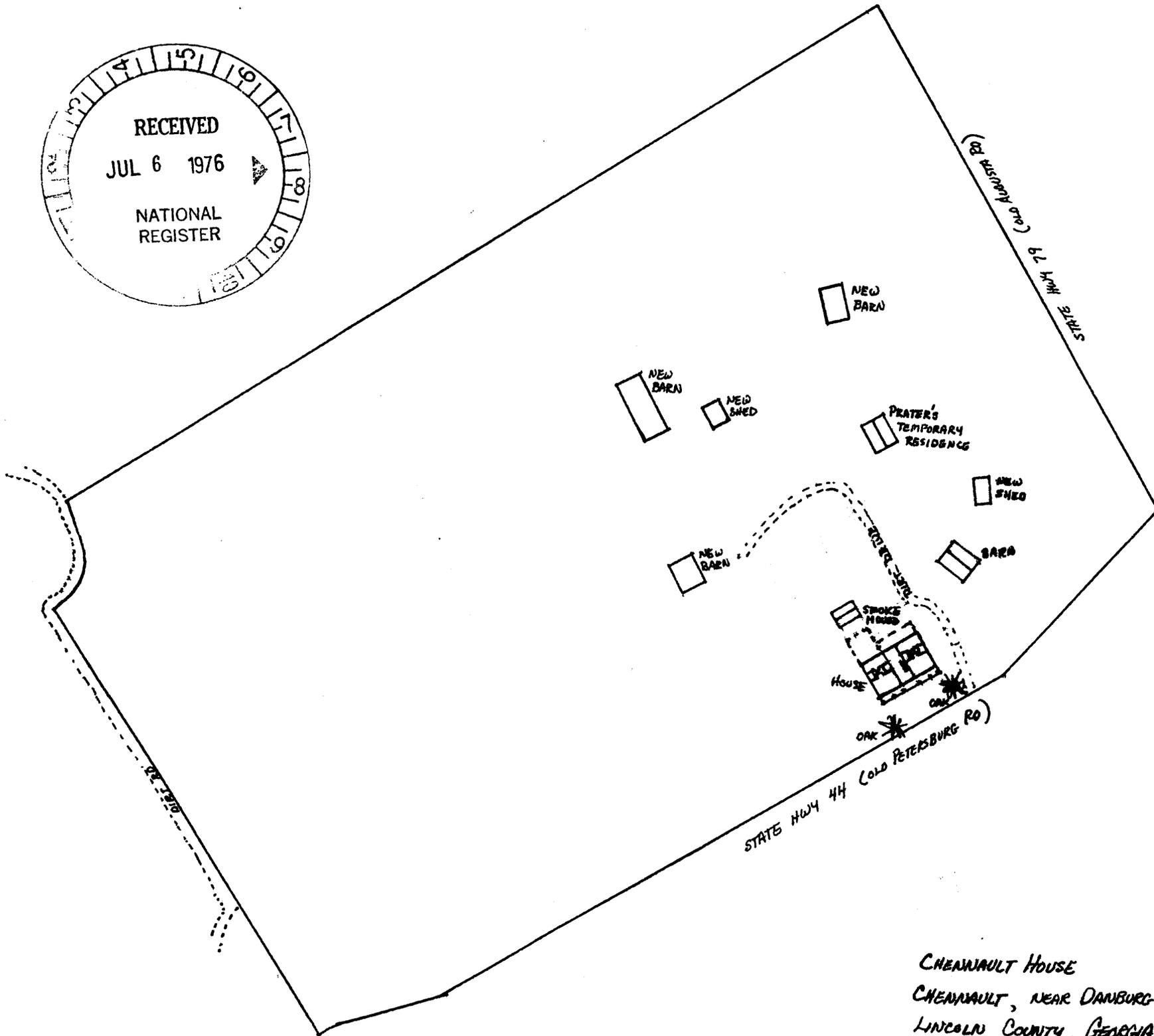
Lane, Mary F. House, "Some Incidents of the Civil War as Related by an Eye Witness", unpublished reminiscences.
Saggus, Charles, A Social and Economic History of the Danburg Community, M.A. thesis. United Methodist Church, Commission on Archives and History, Lake Junaluska, N.E., South Georgia Conference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

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER