

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: 91000479

Date Listed: 4/18/91

Darling, Joseph, House
Property Name

Richmond
County

GEORGIA
State

Multiple Name

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.

Patrick Andrus
for Signature of the Keeper

7/25/91
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

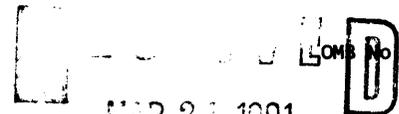
Section No. 7

This nomination was amended to show metal as the roofing material.

The amendment was confirmed by phone with the Georgia SHPO (7/25/91).

DISTRIBUTION:

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



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTER
NATIONAL REGISTER 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 Darling, Joseph, House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 3066 Dennis Road
city, town Martinez (X) vicinity of
county Richmond code GA 245
state Georgia code GA zip code 30907

(N/A) not for publication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

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.

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Signature of certifying official

3/15/91
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon
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

entered in the National Register

Shelous Byers 4/18/91

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

fu
Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER: Georgian Cottage (type)

Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	wood
roof	asphalt shingles
other	N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Joseph Darling House nomination contains a small tract of land, on which is located a historic house, a non-historic outbuilding, and the historic Darling family cemetery. It is located one mile northwest of Interstate Highway 20 near the community of Bonair and is not far from encroaching suburbanization with a new suburb adjoining the property on the east. The cemetery adjoins the house lot on the northwest corner of the property.

The main house is a one and one-half story frame house, with side gables, five bays at the front with a front gable over the modern one bay front entrance portico. The exterior clapboard walls are painted white, while the standing seam metal roof is painted red. The entrance portico floor is concrete, with rubble on the side surfaces. There is a brick pier foundation with modern brick infill. There are three brick side chimneys, and one brick flue at the left rear. There is a rear, full-length screened porch. There is a five pane transom over the double front doors and a simple, boxed cornice, and nonfunctional modern shutters. The front portico is one bay, with square supports on concrete piers. The three chimneys are all in common bond, with the two on the right having corbelled caps, and the one on the left having a metal cap. The windows are 6/6, double-hung sash on all sides, except the rear, where they are 9/9, double-hung sash.

The house has a four-room, central hall plan on the first floor with double doors at both ends of the hall. The first floor rooms have doors into the hall as well as connecting doors. There is a dog-leg stair in the central hall leading to the upper floor where there are two additional rooms, one on either side of the stair, with a room between them at the front. A corner room, once the original detached

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kitchen, has been attached to the house at the right rear of the house, and is now used for the same purpose. There is a rear shed screened porch. A bathroom has been added on the northeast corner of the first floor.

The hallways contain original flush boards which are painted white. The front two rooms have flush boards painted white, while the back two rooms have wallpaper over board. The floor is pine board, and is sanded and varnished. In the upstairs rooms there are plaster board walls. The ceilings are all boards, painted white. Original six-panel doors lead into the hall and between rooms on the right. There are five-panel doors between the rooms on the left. There are original fireplaces with mantels in three of the first floor rooms. The original mantelpieces in the front two rooms are delicate, Federal era ones with fluted and reeded pilasters, and wide cornices. The mantle at the right rear is simple.

The construction of the original home is brace frame, mortise and tenon. In the added sections (bath, porch, etc.) it is balloon frame.

The grounds are natural with a slightly rolling terrain, minimal landscaping, with a large oak at the right rear of the house, and a cleared area around the house. There is a dirt drive leading to the front of the house, which curves to the right and leads to the rear of the house.

The only outbuilding is a pump/storage house at the right rear of the house. It is nonhistoric, built c. 1950 out of brick, with a low porch roof.

Adjacent to the property on the east is a modern housing development, screened from the house by trees.

Changes to the house, as previously mentioned, include the addition of a bath at the left rear, a kitchen at the right rear, a full length rear screened porch, and a one bay porch/portico on the front, dating from around 1930.

The Darling Family Cemetery, included within this nomination, adjoins the house lot on the northwest side, contains burials from the Darling family dating back to 1844. The cemetery contains original, contemporary headstones from the antebellum burials, as well as later ones.

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

Period of Significance:

c. 1834-1856

Significant Dates:

c. 1834

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Unknown

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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 Joseph Darling House is significant in architecture as a good example of an antebellum house built as a rural farm/plantation dwelling. It is a good example of the "Georgian Cottage" type of vernacular farmhouse popular in early 19th century Georgia. The most important characteristic features of this type which are present in this example are its one-story height, gable roof, and the four-room central-hall plan (the Georgian Plan). Other characteristic features include the symmetrical five-bay front facade arrangement with central doorway, exterior chimneys, and a rear shed/porch. Details including front doorway, windows, fireplace mantels, interior woodwork, board and plaster walls, are all retained and are all characteristic of the craftsmanship associated with this house type as is the heavy timber frame of the house. The house also retains paneled doors, simple stairs, and hand-planed wooden walls and ceilings. The only loss which detracts from its historic architectural integrity is that of the front porch, replaced by a modern stoop. The addition of the shed porch and attached kitchen do not compromise its significance as a Georgian Cottage type house.

The house was presumably built as the plantation home of Joseph Darling (1785-1844) and his wife Mary "Polly" Dunivent Darling (1783-1847) on a then 335 acre tract rather late in their lives. Darling was a Baptist deacon for twenty-five years, and a slave-owning planter at his death. He was buried in the family cemetery nearby. The farm and 312 acres left the Darling family in 1856 and after other sales and divisions, the house and 44 acres were sold in 1910 to Wilbert J. Dennis whose descendants still own the house. The cemetery retains a small number of headstones, several dating from the antebellum period. There is a minimum of landscaping in this family cemetery which represents the way most plantation owners were buried, on the grounds of their property.

National Register Criteria

The Joseph Darling House meets National Register Criterion C because it is a good example of the Georgian Cottage type of antebellum plantation/farm house which retains its Federal mantels, and most other original features including paneled doors, simple stairs, hand-planed wooden walls and ceilings.

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Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

The nominated property includes the family cemetery which has been associated with the plantation house since its creation. It is a good example of rural, family cemeteries which are found in great abundance in association with plantation/farm houses in Georgia.

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

The period of significance (1834-1856) begins with the approximate date that the house was built and extends through the period of Darling ownership to reflect the early burials in the Darling family cemetery. While the house was owned and presumably occupied by a long line of distinguished local farmer/planters, at no time during the over 150 years since the house was built did any of these later owners add substantially to the house, nor make any major changes until recently with the addition of the kitchen, the front portico and the back porch.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

While the area in which the Joseph Darling House sits was opened for settlement during colonial times (before 1776), the specific history of the land with regard to this house begins in the early 19th century.

While it is not absolutely certain who built the nominated property, or when it was built, it has been known as the "Darling Tract" or house for most of its documented existence.

A brief history of the land ownership and some biographical data on the owners themselves is in order to understand the history of this house and the era in which the Darling family owned it and presumably built it.

One of the earliest deeds in the chain of title is that from Major Green B. Marshall to John McGar dated September 16, 1828 in which the former sold the latter a 555-acre tract.

Joseph Darling (1785-1844) bought 335 acres, or the majority of this same tract, from John McGar on December 8, 1834. During the ten years he owned the house, Darling was a slave-owning farmer/planter. He died October 4, 1844, at age 60, a Baptist deacon, and was buried in a newly-created family cemetery near the house, where his tombstone still remains.

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Darling's obituary, from the official Baptist publication, The Christian Index, was as follows:

Died, at his residence in Richmond Co., Ga., on the 4th of October last, Joseph Darling, in the sixtieth year of his age, thirty years of which time he filled the Deacon's office in Aberdeen Church, Columbia county.

It can be fairly well assumed that Joseph Darling built this house on his newly acquired property in 1834-35. This conclusion can be based on the fact that the tract owned by the previous owner was divided, with Darling purchasing the majority of the land. He then placed the house on the northwesternmost part of the tract, near the Columbia County line, making this site his primary or perhaps only home, and that the features remaining within the house reflect workmanship from the 1830s.

Darling died without leaving a will. His estate included eleven slaves valued at \$4,500, while the house and land was eventually sold by his estate for \$2,000 to his son. As his estate was probated, the house and the land ended up briefly in the ownership of his widow, Mary Dunivent Darling (1783-1847). She is also buried in the adjacent family cemetery.

Mary Darling did leave a will and following the terms of her will, her children inherited the property and proceeded to transfer ownership to Joseph Darling, Jr. Sarah Darling Wall sold her interest to her brother, Joseph Darling, Jr. on January 4, 1848.

Joseph Darling, Jr., inheriting part and then purchasing the remaining acreage from his siblings, apparently tried to sell the property in 1849. The Augusta Chronicle ran an advertisement in the January 22, 1849 edition in which Joseph Darling, Jr. offered to sell the land to the highest bidder:

LAND, PRODUCE, AND STOCK FOR SALE

The Plantation, consisting of [312] acres of PINE LAND of good quality, of which about [125] acres are cleared and under good [?].

Also--Horses and Mules, Hogs and Cows.

Also--Corn and Fodder, Cotton Seed, Farming Tools, and a good one horse Wagon.

Also--A superior Buggy and Horse.

Terms made known on the day of sale.

JOSEPH DARLING

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He was not successful then, but when he was in 1856, he apparently moved to South Carolina. He is buried in Augusta's Magnolia cemetery in the Confederate survivors section and is listed as a member of a South Carolina Confederate regiment.

After the house and property left the Darling family in 1856, it does not appear to have been the primary residence of any of the later owners for the next fifty years until it passed into the family of the present owner. Since the house remained in relatively good condition, it can be assumed that the house was occupied either seasonally by the owners or by their overseer or other persons charged with property management. The house tract included land in adjoining Columbia County.

When Joseph Darling, Jr. sold the 312-acre property to James Davies on November 6, 1856, it included 13 acres less than his father purchased in 1834, but included the house. Davies owned the property only briefly, selling the entire 312 acre tract to B. H. Warren on April 3, 1863. Davies, listed on the census as a bank cashier, was a lawyer, later a merchant, and a director and Vice President of the Georgia Railroad and Banking Company, headquartered in Augusta. He died on August 6, 1880 and is buried in the Summerville Cemetery in Augusta.

Benjamin Holmes Warren, who owned the property himself for only seven years and his estate for thirteen years more, for a total of 20 years, was a more significant person. He was a judge, and head of the National Bank of Augusta, a major land speculator, and one of the early owners of the land where the Augusta National Golf Course is today. He lived in a house on Augusta's fashionable Greene Street. He died March 31, 1870 at the age of 74. After his death, the Darling tract remained in his estate until an interest in the 312 acres was sold to William H. Goodrich before his death in 1877. On November 6, 1883, Sheriff Daniel sold, at a public auction, lands contested by William Walton as administrator for B. H. Warren against James P. Verdery as administrator for William H. Goodrich, these lands being part of a tract known as the "Darling tract" held under bond by William H. Goodrich at his death. While he only briefly owned an interest in the Darling Tract before his death, it should be noted that Goodrich (1808-1877) was one of Augusta's foremost architects during the antebellum and post-bellum period, although it appears he did not actually own this house and thus had no impact on its architecture.

The land, sold as belonging to William H. Goodrich, was divided into several lots. Two of these were bought by James H. Alexander and

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one by James Pittman. A larger tract of 100 plus acres was bought by a fourth party.

At the time of this 1883 sale, the Darling House was in the middle and far western side of the 312/321 acre tract. After the 1883 sale to Alexander, the house was at the northwest edge of the property on parcel 1, an 84 acre portion.

James Hillhouse Alexander (1840-1902) was a prominent Augustan whose home was on Broad Street. A native of Washington, Wilkes County, where he and his wife's families were very prominent, he had moved to Augusta after a distinguished Confederate military career and attempts afterwards to be a lawyer. He then entered the commercial field and was quite successful. He also served as Mayor of Augusta.

Major Alexander's death in late 1902 brought the house into the ownership of his two sons, Irvin and Hugh Alexander. They sold the house and two tracts, one for 44 acres and another for 57, under a contract dated 1906, to Wilbert. J. Dennis on October 19, 1910.

From here afterwards, the land, which was actually located in both Richmond and Columbia Counties, was subdivided among members of the Dennis family until it reached the present owner, James Marion Dennis, in 1979.

The Dennis family tradition is that their family has farmed this property as early as 1893 and that electricity was not added until 1927. The house remains in the Dennis family.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Cadle, William. Historic Property Information Form Supplemental information to the "Stallings Summer House" submission, March 7, 1988. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. This revision of the history of the property along with substantial attachments revised an earlier submission, dated August 7, 1986 by Julian W. Adams, from which the description only was taken.

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):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.18 acres.

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 402540 Northing 3710030

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is that portion marked on the enclosed plat and includes the house property as well as the adjoining cemetery.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is all that remains associated with the historic house and all the owner owns at this location. The boundary also includes the Darling family cemetery. The property constitutes an appropriate rural setting for this vernacular farmhouse.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian.
organization Historic Preservation Section, 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** March 14, 1991.

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Photographs

Name of Property: Darling, Joseph, House
City or Vicinity: Martinez vicinity
County: Richmond
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: April, 1990

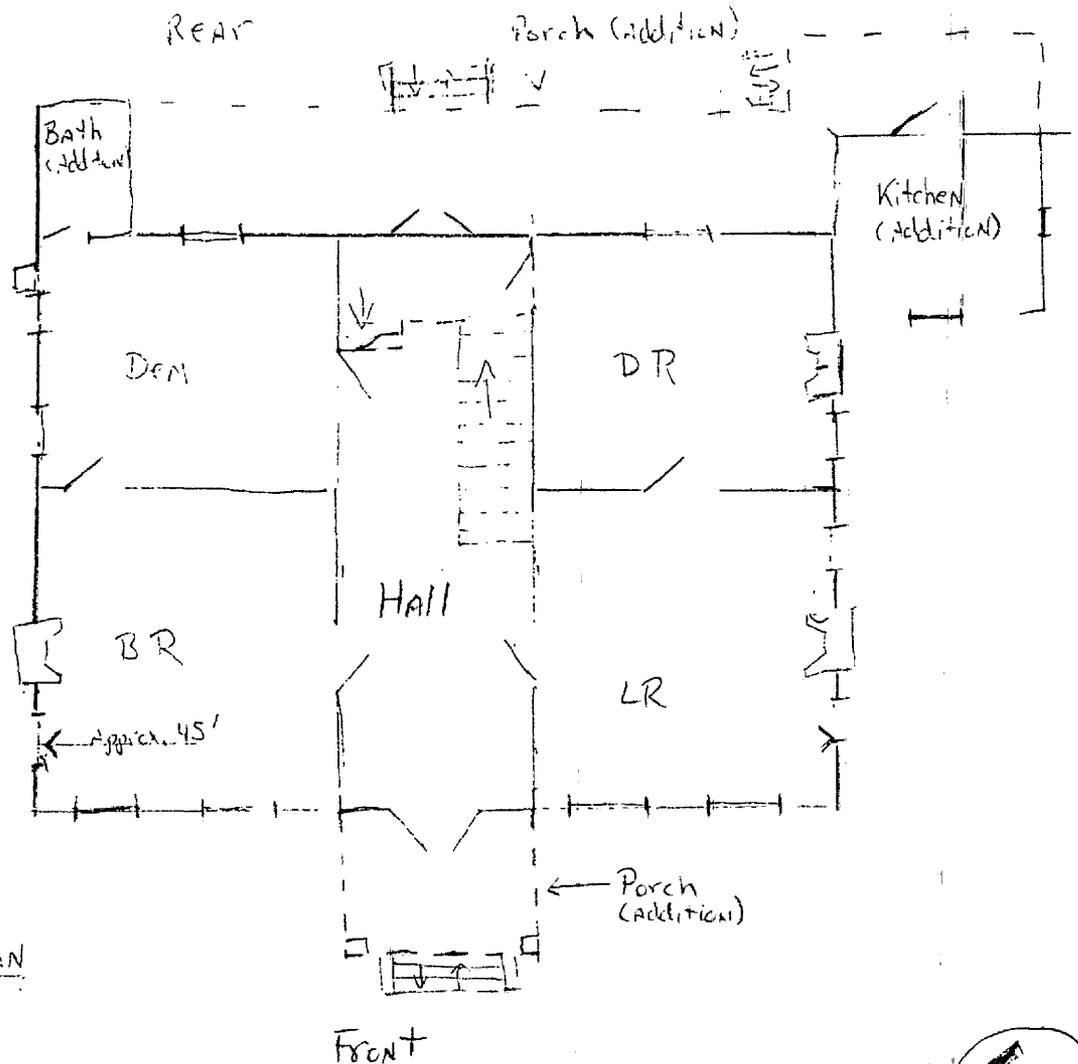
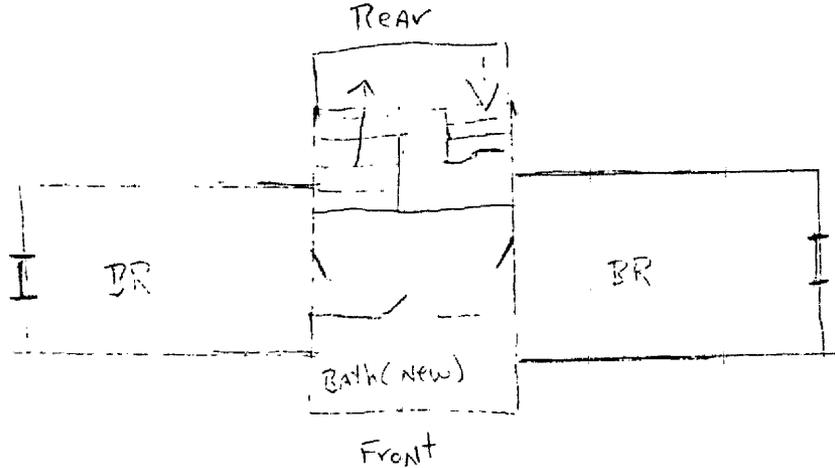
Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 13: Front facade, photographer facing north.
- 2 of 13: Front facade, photographer facing east.
- 3 of 13: Front and north side facade, photographer facing southeast.
- 4 of 13: Rear facade and outbuilding, photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 13: Outbuilding, photographer facing northwest.
- 6 of 13: Darling Family Cemetery, photographer facing northwest.
- 7 of 13: First floor, central hall, photographer facing east.
- 8 of 13: First floor, living room, photographer facing south.
- 9 of 13: First floor, dining room (looking into living room), photographer facing south.
- 10 of 13: First floor, bedroom across hall from living room, photographer facing northwest.
- 11 of 13: First floor, bedroom/den as seen from ascending stairway, photographer facing north.
- 12 of 13: Stairway as seen from second floor landing.
- 13 of 13: Second floor, bedroom, photographer facing southeast.

Floorplan
 Darling, Joseph, House
 Martinez vicinity, Richmond County, Georgia
 Scale: not to scale
 Source: Drawn by Julian W. Adams

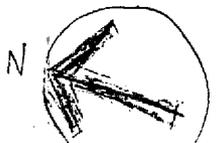
Key: Current use of rooms is drawn on the plans

Dennis Residence
Upstairs



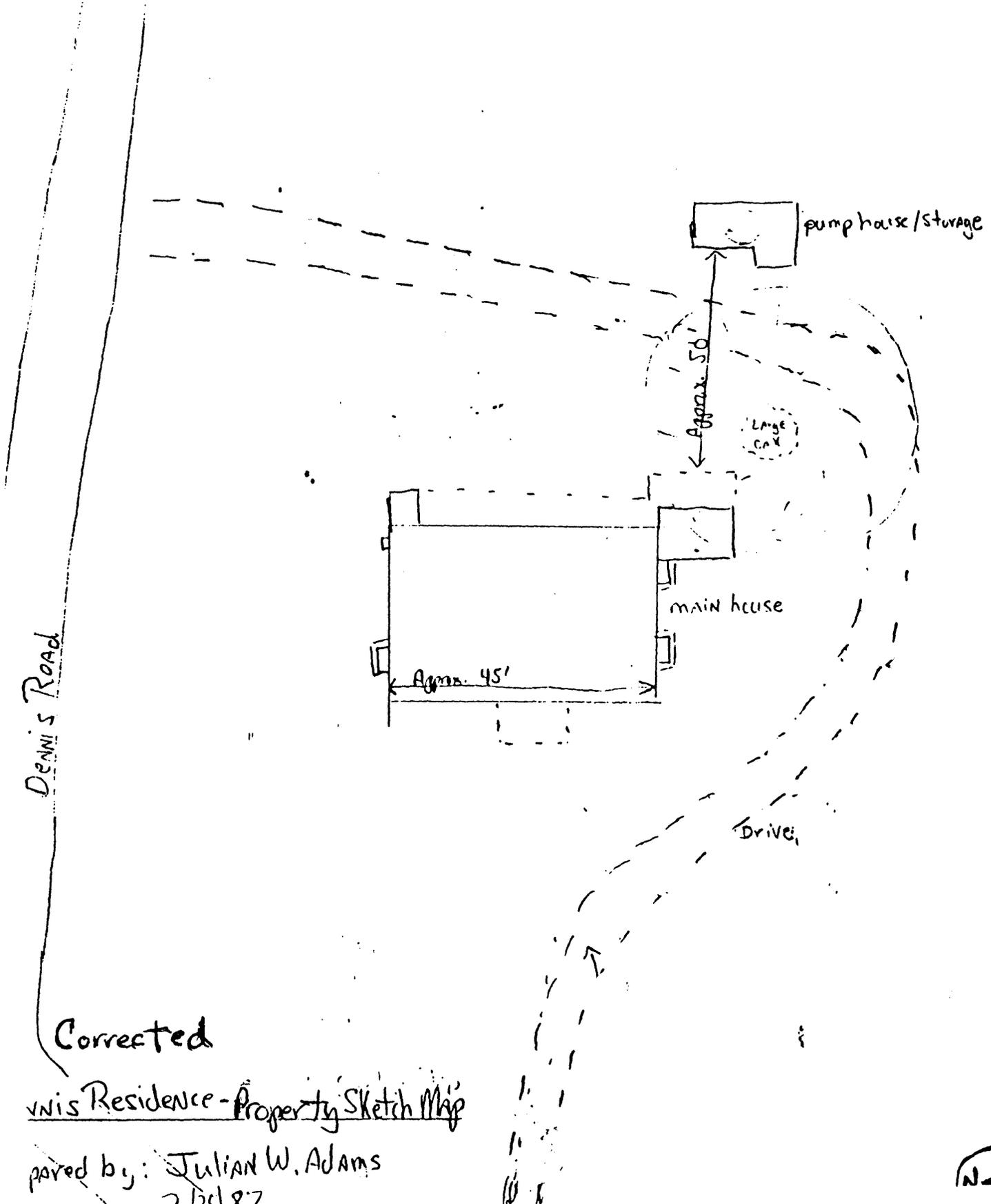
Dennis Residence - Floorplan
Downstairs

Prepared by: Julian W. Adams
 1961



Sketch Map
Darling, Joseph, House
Martinez vicinity, Richmond County, Georgia
Scale: not to scale
Source: Drawn by Julian W. Adams

Date: 1987
Key: The main house, storage house and
road are marked directly on the map



Corrected

vnis Residence - Property Sketch Map

pared by: Julian W. Adams
2/25/87



Plat Map
 Darling, Joseph, House
 Martinez vicinity, Richmond County, Georgia
 Scale: ----- = 200'
 Source: Richmond County, Georgia, Deed Book

37-K, p. 248

Date: 1979

Key: The nominated parcel is marked by a heavy black line

