

JUN 13 1994

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 James Kelley House
other names/site number Kelley-Mertz House, Greenwood

2. Location

street & number Tennille-Harrison Road
city, town Tennille (n.a.) vicinity of
county Washington code GA 303
state Georgia code GA zip code 31089

(n.a.) not for publication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 | 8 | 5 |
| sites | 0 | 0 |
| structures | 1 | 0 |
| objects | 0 | 0 |
| total | 9 | 5 |

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Buildings Designed by Charles Edward Choate, Constructed in Washington County, Georgia, between 1896 and 1919

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

6/9/94
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

Edson H. Beall

7.28.94

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

Entered in the
National Register

for

Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling
Agricultural: outbuildings

Current Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements:
Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials:

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| foundation | concrete |
| walls | stucco |
| roof | terra cotta (tile) |
| other | wood (detailing) |

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Kelley-Mertz House is a stuccoed, tile-roofed, Craftsman-style bungalow located on the outskirts of Tennille. The property includes a number of historic and nonhistoric agricultural outbuildings as well as representative rural acreage associated with the property.

The one-and-one-half-story house has five bays across the front facade. The house is side-gabled with barge work and faux half-timbering in the gables and a dormer in the center of the front facade. The roof material is tile while the foundation is concrete; the exterior of the house is stucco. A porte-cochere is located on the east front side of the house and there is an extended porch on the west side of the facade which is now screened but was open at one time as seen in an historic photo. There is a large concrete front porch with supports and steps of the same material. Squared arches support the front porch. Above the front doorway, there is a three-paned transom. The side door leading to the porte-cochere has a two-paned transom and three-paned side-light windows.

1/1 windows and a large tri-part window divided by mullions are located on both sides of the house. The casement windows on the first story have six panes each. Above each window on the first story is a two-paned transom. To the left on the front door is located a large ceiling-to-floor window with a four-paned transom divided by a mullion. The window itself is divided into four horizontal lights. There is a screened porch addition at the rear of the house. On the first story, the addition is stucco with a 1/1 window.

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National Park Service

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Section 7

This house was part of an approximately 200 acre tract (only a small intact portion is included in this nomination). The front yard was originally designed as the setting for a large estate, as evidenced by the circular drive and shrub placement in early photographs. The yard was originally landscaped by Fruitlands Nursery of Augusta. The back yard has a large wall of concrete blocks with brick top. The landscape is informal with shade trees, sand, gravel and wild grass. Outside the walls surrounding the house and rear yard, the farming complex includes most of the original outbuildings and three tenant houses (see enclosed plan). These structures are both wood and metal in construction and range in size while the housing is small and Craftsman influenced.

The interior of the house has elaborate mantels and doorways of stone and cast concrete. There is a frieze in the downstairs bedroom, and above the fireplace in the living room is a quote which reads, "Blow pipes o' pan pour out your voice in music sweet as love inspiration lend in strife for immortality." Walls are paneled and the floors are wooden. Dentil molding is located along the interior ceiling and there are built-in cabinets and shelves throughout the house. Several mantelpieces located throughout the house exhibit classical orders, a bass relief frieze or an entablature. Two Ionic columns are placed at the entrance to the main front room and French doors are located throughout the house.

The Kelley House was the center of a prosperous farming complex; James Kelley was a "Master Farmer" in Georgia as designated by the College of Agriculture at the University of Georgia in the 1920s. Several outbuildings (many dating earlier than 1920) remain on the property in poor to good condition. Contributing historic outbuildings include two early 20th-century tenant houses, three turn-of-the-century barns, and two smaller wooden sheds, all to the rear (east) of the main house. Also contributing to the property is a metal tower, directly northeast of the main house, which formerly housed a wind mill and water tank. Documented noncontributing outbuildings include five modern metal sheds. Although none of these outbuildings is associated with the architect Charles Choate, the historic ones are significant because they comprise the historic setting of this farmhouse.

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:

1919

Significant Dates:

1919

Significant Person(s):

n.a.

Cultural Affiliation:

n.a.

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Charles E. Choate, architect

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Kelley House is significant in architecture because it is an unusual local example of a Craftsman-style house with eclectic detailing, a rare style of architecture for the architect Charles Choate, and because as the last building designed by Choate in Washington County it marks the end of his career locally.

Choate's career in Washington County is characterized primarily by a variety of late 19th and early 20th century Victorian Eclectic and Classical Revival designs. The Kelley House, built after his other local residential commissions, reflects a broadening of Choate's design vocabulary to include newer styles, motifs, and construction materials. Indeed, the house is unique in Choate's local portfolio in terms of its style and materials, and it is an unusual local example of the Craftsman-style bungalow house, especially with its stuccoed walls and tiled roof. However, in its attention to scale, proportion, and detail, the design is characteristically Choate. Also, in the interior, more typical Choate design motifs occur, including classically inspired mantels, a bas-relief, entablatures, and Ionic columns at the entrance to the main front room.

Another significant aspect of the Kelley House is its association with James Kelley, a "Master Farmer" in Georgia as designated by the College of Agriculture at the University of Georgia in the 1920s. The Kelley House was the center of a large and prosperous early 20th-century farm in Tennille. Several outbuildings (many dating earlier than 1919) remain on the property in poor to good condition. Although these structures were not designed by the architect Charles Choate, they comprise the historic setting of this important architect-designed farmhouse. This property is likely significant in terms of agriculture for its associations with James Kelley and because of the surviving outbuildings and representative agricultural acreage illustrative of a farming complex in the early 20th century in this part of Georgia, although its eligibility under Criteria A in the area of agriculture has not been assessed in this thematic nomination of Choate-designed buildings.

National Register Criteria

This property meets National Register Criterion C for its architectural significance as a significant and unusual work of residential architecture designed by Charles Choate at the end of

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Section 8

his local career.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n.a.

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

1919--date of construction

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if applicable)

The contributing resources include the main house (designed by Charles Choate) and the historic agricultural outbuildings associated with the house (not designed by Choate but which comprise the historic setting of the farmhouse). The nonhistoric outbuildings are considered nonhistoric. (See Section 7 for more information about the outbuildings.)

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

In March 1919, fire destroyed the home of James and Eugenia Kelley near Tennille. Mr. Kelley hired Charles Choate, in Tennille at the time on his way "home" to Hawkinsville, to design the new Kelley home, as reported in the Sandersville Progress. It is believed that Mr. Choate had designed the earlier home for Mr. Kelley at the same location around the turn of the century according to a photograph found in Mr. Choate's portfolio and a local source. Mr. Choate's portfolio contains a photograph of the present Kelley House taken in its prime.

The Kelleys lived in the Choate-designed house until Mrs. Kelley's death in 1946. At this time, the house and land went to her nephew, Grady Mertz. Mertz continued to farm the land on a large scale until his death in the 1960s. Mr. Mertz was also involved in ginning on the property. Mr. Copeland, the overseer for James Kelley, continued to work on the farm for Grady Mertz and lived on the property for many years. The Mertz Estate sold the property to Dorsey Veal. Mr. Veal then died intestate, and now the land and house are a part of his estate.

9. Major Bibliographic References

See the bibliography in the multiple property documentation form.

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:

- 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 15

UTM References

- A) Zone 17 Easting 331910 Northing 3644970
- B) Zone 17 Easting 331870 Northing 3644800
- C) Zone 17 Easting 331600 Northing 3644890
- D) Zone 17 Easting 331560 Northing 3645050

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of an approximately rectangular piece of land, northeast of the intersection of Tennille-Harrison and Old Harrison Roads, containing the main house and the complex of historic outbuildings associated with it. The nominated property is outlined to scale on the attached sketch map. The boundaries are as follows: from the intersection of Tennille-Harrison and Old Harrison Roads, 1000' east along the north right-of-way of Old Harrison Road, then 600' north (paralleling a farm road within the nominated property), then 1200' in an approximately westward direction to Tennille-Harrison Road to a point 600' north of its intersection with Old Harrison Road, then 600' south along the east right-of-way of Tennille-Harrison Road.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the main Choate-designed house, its yard, a complex of outbuildings contemporary with the house, and representative rural acreage associated with the property. It does not include undocumented outbuildings or acreage currently associated with the main house.

11. Form Prepared By

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(HPS form version 11-02-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

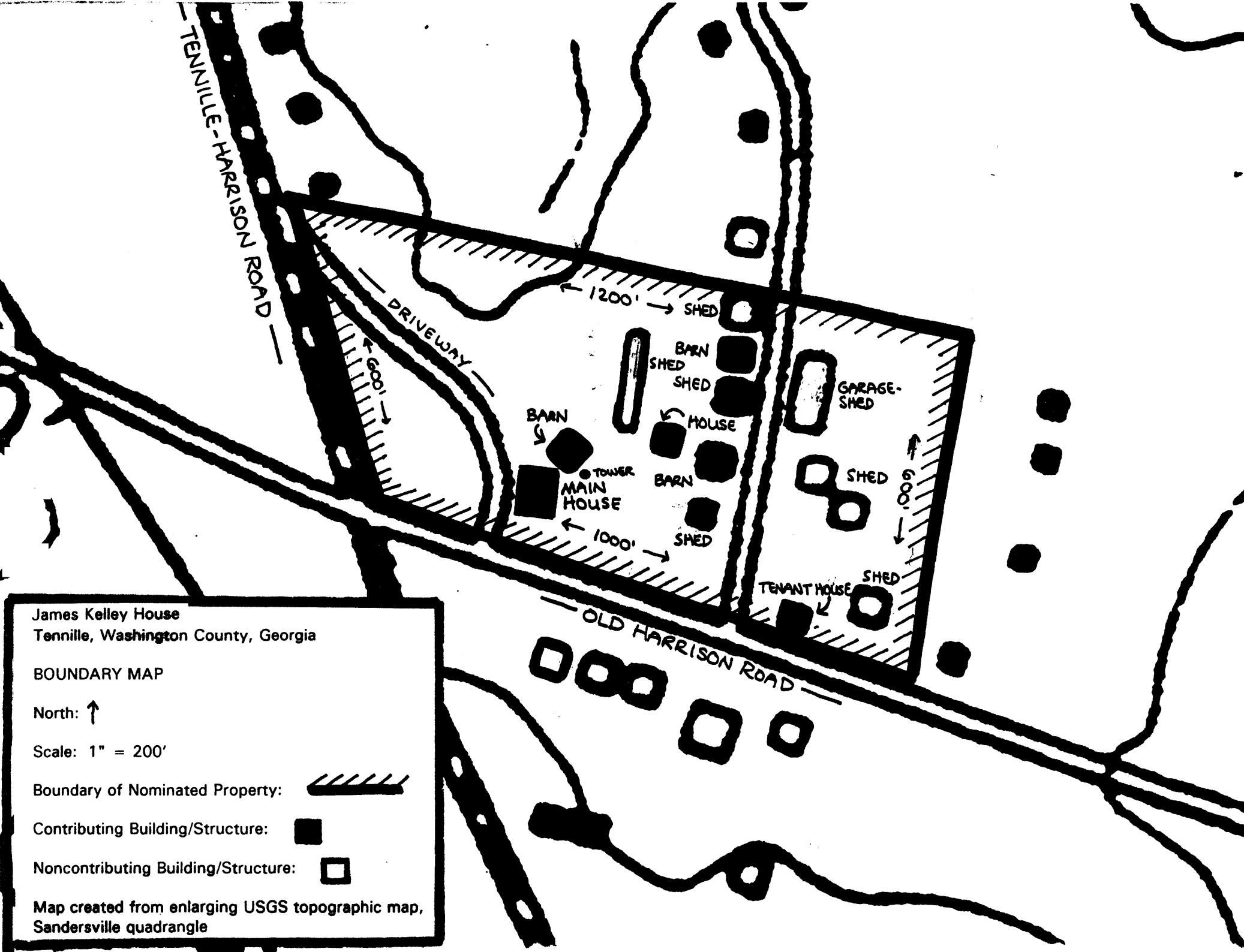
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Photographs

Name of Property: James Kelley House
City or Vicinity: Tennille
County: Washington
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: September 1992

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 3. Main house and yard; photographer facing northeast.
- 2 of 3. Rear of main house, with historic tower for former wind mill and water tank (right); photographer facing west.
- 3 of 3. Historic agricultural outbuildings to rear (east) of main house (from right to left: shed, barn, shed); photographer facing east.




James Kelley House
 Tennille, Washington County, Georgia

BOUNDARY MAP

North: ↑

Scale: 1" = 200'

Boundary of Nominated Property: 

Contributing Building/Structure: 

Noncontributing Building/Structure: 

Map created from enlarging USGS topographic map,
 Sandersville quadrangle

James Kelley House
Tennille, Washington County, Georgia

FLOOR PLAN

North: ←

Scale: not to scale

