

DEC 05 1988

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Melrose and Sinkola Plantations
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 3.75 miles southwest of Thomasville on US 319
city, town Thomasville (X) vicinity of
county Thomas code GA 275
state Georgia code GA zip code 31799

(N/A) not for publication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	50	0
sites	1	0
structures	3	0
objects	0	0
total	54	0

NOTE: 2 structures are undocumented and are not listed.

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

11/22/89
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Deputy 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

**Entered in the
National Register**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register Michael Lyon 1/4/90
- () determined eligible for the National Register _____
- () determined not eligible for the National Register _____
- () removed from the National Register _____
- () other, explain: _____
- () see continuation sheet _____

for
Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/storage; /agriculture field; /animal facility;
/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/storage; /agriculture field; /animal facility;
/agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

GREEK REVIVAL
GEORGIAN REVIVAL (for main house and outbuildings)
COLONIAL REVIVAL/Georgian Revival

Materials:

foundation brick
walls wood and brick
roof shingles
other n/a

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Melrose and Sinkola Plantations are located 3.75 miles southwest of Thomasville, Georgia on either side of US Highway 319, the Thomasville to Tallahassee Road.

Melrose and Sinkola Plantations comprise one historic estate, developed between the 1820s and the 1980s. A series of owners, all of whom played important roles in the history of Thomas County, contributed to the development of the complex.

The estate consists of two major groupings of structures with a total of over fifty buildings on both sides of a major highway. Uses fall into three main categories: residential, agricultural, and recreational.

Architecturally, the buildings fall into several categories. The Greek Revival style can be identified in the original part of the Coalson-Wyche House. Elements of this style reflected in this house are the central hall-plan, entrance door with sidelights and transom, and the symmetrical massing. The Georgian Revival style is found in the additions to the main house and the large number of 20th century outbuildings. Elements of this style are the use of brick, porticos, and a symmetry of form. Many of the buildings on the plantations show a mixture of these styles. Predominant materials used are wood for residential buildings, and brick for agricultural structures. There are exceptions.

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Each of the two main groupings of buildings are around large main dwelling houses with complementary service buildings. Roads were planned, but informal, with the service buildings lining them on both sides.

The first grouping centers on the main historic house of Melrose Plantation, and is located on the northwest side of the Tallahassee Road. An antebellum structure which was greatly expanded around the turn of the twentieth century, this house is the nucleus of the plantation complex. Beside it to the southeast is a second large dwelling, "Owl's Nest," which is the main house for Sinkola Plantation, dating from the 1920s. A third dwelling, "Squirrel's Cottage," lies beyond it and is used as a guest house. Close to these dwellings is a pool house, wood house, and laundry. Northwest of the three main dwellings are a grouping of three cottages, a large walled garden with greenhouse, a dairy house, two large garages, an office, a stable complex for horses, two small barns with barnyard, a shop, milking barn, lunch room, pump room, theater, chicken shed, and assorted implement sheds.

The second grouping of buildings is located on the southeast side of Tallahassee Road approximately one-half mile southwest of the first complex. Its central focus is a two-story frame manager's dwelling dating from the 1920s, and facing the highway. Behind it is a complex of buildings consisting of a shop (formerly a commissary), an office, a garage, a barn, a lunch room (formerly fuel house), cooling house, processing shed, machine shed, paint house, office (formerly lunch room), green houses, granary, horse barn, wood house, water tank, mule barn, kennel house, kennel cook house, and various tenant dwellings. All of this complex was developed in the 1920s and 1930s.

The natural terrain of Melrose and Sinkola Plantations is gently rolling, and heavily wooded with virgin pine and oak. Some low swampy areas are found on the south side of Tallahassee Road, including several large sink holes, from which the name "Sinkola" was derived. The elevation above sea level ranges from about 240 to 290 feet.

The property is divided into four areas:

- (1) Main house at Melrose, "Owl's Nest," and service buildings;
- (2) Manager's house at Sinkola, and farm buildings behind it;
- (3) Wooded land north of Tallahassee Road;
- (4) Wooded land south of Tallahassee Road.

The land is divided into land lots of 250 acres each. Plantation roads have no pattern of layout, but simply give access to various points around the plantation. Most roads generally lead into the two main complexes and service the various houses and service buildings.

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U.S. Highway 319 (Tallahassee Road) bisects the plantation at an angle from Thomasville to the east, following a southwesterly path toward Beachton and Tallahassee, Florida.

Open fields for grazing of livestock can be found surrounding both main building complexes. Other fields are scattered throughout the mostly wooded land, with the primary function of serving as shooting areas for quail and other game.

Buildings in both main complexes are grouped according to function. For instance, on the north side the three main houses used as the owner's residences and their guests' quarters are relatively close together along with the pool house, laundry and wood house. The three cottages for professional plantation staff members and their families are grouped together beside the garden and green house, and near the garages, office, stables, barns, etc., for which they were responsible.

The building complex south of Tallahassee Road is also laid out according to function. Behind the manager's house is the office and plantation commissary (now a shop) along with various buildings for various farm machinery and equipment. Also grouped together are the horse and mule barns with the grain bin, and the dog kennels with both the cook and trainer's dwellings.

Three tenant dwellings for farm workers and their families are also grouped together near the last described complex. Other similar dwellings are scattered throughout both plantations, some serving as gate houses.

Melrose and Sinkola Plantations have over fifty buildings of varying styles, all of which were designed to be compatible with the original structure, the main house of Melrose.

This main house was originally log with four rooms and a wide hall or breezeway. This was weatherboarded by the mid-nineteenth century with the long veranda across the front. Around the turn of the twentieth century the east wing was constructed with compatible design, scale, and proportion. The west wing followed shortly thereafter, and a two-story guest house with bowling alley was connected to the rear by a covered walkway. This last addition was removed by the mid-twentieth century.

The central, original section of the house can be described as a vernacular plantation farm house with gabled roof and exterior brick chimneys.

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Beginning in the 1930s numerous other buildings were constructed for varying purposes on the plantation which had not yet been divided by the heirs. The complex of brick structures which includes the walled vegetable garden and greenhouse, garages, office, stables, groom's cottage, mule barn, carpenter's shop, milking barn, and bull and calf barns were all designed in the Georgian Revival by the Cleveland architectural firm of Walker and Weeks.

The same firm designed at least one of the four frame Colonial Revival cottages, located beside this complex. The "Parrish Cottage," "Waldorf," "Banksia Cottage," and the "Squirrels's Cottage" all can be described as one or one and one-half story frame dwellings, built in the 1930s. The managers house at Sinkola on the south side of Tallahassee Road is very similar, but on a larger scale with two stories. It was completed earlier, in 1923, probably the first of these five houses to be built.

The "Owl's Nest," which was begun in 1927 as a guest house, has been expanded several times, and now serves as the main residence of an owner. The original was designed by Walker and Weeks in the Colonial Revival style. The kitchen wing was added by the same firm in 1948, along with the first two rear bedrooms. The sunken living room to the left of the front door was added in 1960, and designed by another Cleveland architectural firm, Schafer, Flynn, and Williams. Other small additions and remodelings have been made frequently at "Owl's Nest" including the rear bedroom/office suite, the patios, and a kitchen expansion and remodelling as recently as 1984.

The plantation farm buildings and tenant dwellings are all similar simple frame structures with either weatherboard or board and batten siding. Most are relatively small and their design reflects the use for which they were intended.

Two additional recreational buildings on the plantations are "Showboat" and the Pool House. "Showboat" is a large frame building with wide weatherboard siding and a highly decorated porch in-antis. Designed to resemble a showboat on a river, this building was used as a theater for both motion pictures and live productions. The interior includes a stage with dressing rooms on either side. In the balcony is a projection booth. The interior walls are made of pecky cypress. A small bridge spanning a goldfish pond gives access to the front porch.

The Pool House is a large brick and steel structure housing a heated swimming pool. The structure contains both men's and women's dressing rooms, a bar, sitting area with fireplace, and a full sized pool. All floors are tiled, and the structure has a translucent (fiberglass) roof and a series of sliding glass doors overlooking a

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large courtyard. The courtyard is surrounded by a high brick wall and is sowed in grass with large bushes planted on the front nearest to the highway.

The nature of a southwest Georgia shooting plantation requires that it be a well managed, mature pine and oak forest, although numerous other varieties of trees grow there. This is the case with Melrose and Sinkola, where annual burnings and selective cutting for timber keep the underbrush low, creating an ideal habitat for propagating bobwhite quail.

In contrast, the areas around the main houses are highly landscaped with formal boxwood gardens and well manicured grass lawns. The grounds off the main house at Melrose feature a sunken rose garden dating from the early twentieth century, a large reflection pool with goldfish, and the old Wyche Family Cemetery, overgrown with English ivy. Adjacent fields for horse grazing are enclosed with a wooden plank fence, and large live oaks form a canopy over the drive leading to the main house. Similar trees line the drive through the vegetable garden, stables, cottages, and "Showboat." A magnolia-lined drive giving direct access to the "Owl's Nest" from Tallahassee Road is a relatively recent landscape feature.

The manager's house at Sinkola, on the south side of Tallahassee Road, is less elaborately landscaped, although a formal boxwood hedge is planted between the front gate on the highway and the house. Its accompanying farm buildings to the rear are not landscaped other than being surrounded by well-kept grass lawns. Drives giving access to this complex from the main highway are sunken sand roads which are cut through the natural forest.

The archaeological potential is unknown. At least 10 slave dwellings were located on the antebellum plantation, but their locations are not known. An earlier stable existed where "Showboat" was later built. The guest house with bowling alley formerly attached to the main house was located a few yards from the north beyond the present porte cochere.

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

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ARCHITECTURE
CONSERVATION
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance:

1820s-1939

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Walker and Weeks of Cleveland, Ohio for outbuildings

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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)

Melrose and Sinkola Plantations represent the development of plantations which surround Thomasville, Georgia. With an antebellum core, they have been updated, rebuilt, and reused in the late 19th and early 20th century, usually by Northern owners. This plantation complex is significant in architecture because it represents two very distinct eras of plantation building. The core of the Melrose main house is of antebellum origins, and is a good example of use of the Greek Revival style and the central-hall plan, while the wings were added by later owners and are likewise good examples of the Georgian Revival style. Other plantation buildings were added in the 1920s and 1930s and were designed by Walker and Weeks, architects, of Cleveland, Ohio. The outbuildings are architecturally significant because most are in the formal Georgian Style and reflect the use of red-brick and symmetry so prevalent in that style. It is significant in conservation due to its leadership role in the private sector in early 20th-century land reclamation and forest conservation in Georgia. The owners took worn-out cotton fields and re-established field and forest systems and habitats for the propagation of game, especially quail. The plantation is significant in entertainment/recreation. In terms of sports, it represents the lifestyle of horseback riding, quail hunting, and other horse-related sports, for which Thomasville became famous at the turn of the century. Buildings survive here which were built for these sports. In theater, Melrose contains a separate, private theater building, known as the "Showboat", used for theater and film, said to have been the site for the first private screening of "Gone With the Wind" in 1939. Finally, the plantation is significant in social history because it exemplifies the role in southwest Georgia, and especially in Thomas County, of Northern investors who came seasonally to relax, and thus redeveloped and preserved antebellum plantations as viable 20th-century estates.

National Register Criteria

Melrose and Sinkola Plantations meet National Register Criterion A, "broad patterns of our history," because it represents a large farm/plantation which in the early 20th-century has played a significant role in the conservation movement since the owners were leaders in the private sector movement for forest conservation in Georgia and thus created a habitat especially good for the propagation of quail. It was also an important recreation spot as were many of the plantations in the region, serving as winter homes for northern industrialists who enjoyed horseback riding, quail hunting, and other horse-related sports. They brought many important visitors to the

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region as part of their recreation interests. Their interest in recreation also caused them to refurbish the plantations, such as this one, and add to them to create a larger and more elaborate place than they initially purchased.

The plantations meet Criterion C, "distinctive characteristics...", because they reflect the Greek Revival and the Georgian Revival styles mixed together into a cohesive complex. The outbuildings from the early 1920s and 1930s reflect the Georgian Revival at its zenith as the nationally known firm of Walker and Weeks of Cleveland, Ohio, designed some of the finest Georgian Revival outbuildings to be found in Georgia. Not only were they built to serve functional purposes as stables and barns, but all are tied together in a cohesive architecturally pleasing way, many appearing much more formal than their use would imply and all reminiscent of the English garden buildings from the Georgian period to which this style reflects. The main house at Melrose, and the other large dwelling houses and manager's house at Sinkola reflect the Georgian Revival style in the details used and the adaptation to the south Georgia climate with porches.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

The 1820s for the establishment of the original antebellum plantation. 1939 because it is the 50-year cut-off and the property has continued to be used as a plantation estate since then.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

Melrose and Sinkola Plantations represent an important aspect of the history of Thomas County from its earliest settlement to the present. Beginning as one large cotton plantation, the house and land have also sheltered refugees during the Civil War, displaced Southerners following that war, and northern industrialists and their descendants who have used it as a seasonal residence, a farm, and a hunting preserve since the 1890s. Most recently, a portion, including the old main house and its service buildings, has served as a residence and a convalescent retreat for a local plastic surgeon and his patients.

The plantation originally consisted of 1,500 acres, or six land lots of 250 acres each, purchased and assembled by Henry Wyche by 1839. This acreage basically was kept intact until the 20th century when a new owner, H. M. Hanna and his descendants, began to expand

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their holdings to increase the area available for wildlife propagation. Today, while the original property/estate has been expanded to include over 8,000 acres in three tracts, only the original 1,500 acres are being nominated.

The antebellum house, which is presently absorbed in the expanded 20th century house, dates back to the earliest ownership. Paul Coalson (1797-1830), a lawyer, came to Thomas County when it was established in 1825. He was from Pulaski County, and, after graduating from college, returned there to marry, in 1823, Elizabeth Blackshear (1805-1853). Her parents, Edward and Emily Mitchell Blackshear, were also among the earliest and most prominent settlers of Thomas County, her father establishing himself at Cedar Grove (now Susina Plantation, on the National Register) in Thomas (now Grady) County. Her brother married a sister of the man who built Greenwood Plantation, also in Thomas County (National Register), and her uncle, Richard Mitchell, established Fair Oaks Plantation.

Coalson's assemblage of land from 1825-1830 consisted of half of the historic acreage, making a total of 750 acres, for which he barely paid \$1 an acre, or \$730. At his death he owned fourteen slaves, various livestock, and many bales of cotton. Family tradition holds that Coalson built the original antebellum plantation house during his brief ownership of land lot 237, very close to land lot 236 which he actually purchased in 1825. Since he did not actually own Lot 237 at the time of his death, it is assumed the house was built across the lot line by error.

Mrs. Elizabeth Coalson, after being widowed for five years, remarried in 1835 to her first cousin, Henry Wyche (1812-after 1862), also from Pulaski County. She had four more children by him. Wyche's brother owned the original plantation where Mill Pond (National Register) is located today and two of his sisters were each married (at different times) to Hardy Bryan, one of the wealthiest men in the area and whose historic home survives in Thomasville and is also on the National Register.

Under the Wyche ownership, the plantation was expanded to include 750 more acres, so that by 1839 he had assembled the original 1500 acre tract. If the extant antebellum house was not built by 1830 when Coalson died, then it is assumed that it was built by 1840. In that year, Wyche reported having 32 slaves. By 1850 he had 48 slaves and by 1860, 54, with ten slave dwellings. The 1860 Agricultural Census indicates that half of the land was improved, that the farm had various livestock, and produced Indian corn, oats, rice, and 65 bales of ginned cotton at 400 pounds per bale, plus peas, beans, Irish potatoes, and butter.

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When Mrs. Elizabeth Blackshear Coalson Wyche died in 1853, her personal estate included 44 slaves left her by her father. They were valued at \$25,000. These were divided by lots to her six children. Mr. Wyche remarried to Artemisia Lester and had three more children. When he offered the plantation for sale in 1857, the advertisement shed some light on the extant structures, for in the ad he mentioned a ginhouse and screw, outbuildings (not specified) and a "good comfortable dwelling house," and lots of fruit trees.

As the Civil War began, the Wyches decided to sell their plantation and did so on August 26, 1862 to William R. G. Gignilliat, a coastal planter from McIntosh County. He moved to Thomas County to escape the raids and ravages of the war as it came to the Georgia coast and continued to practice rice cultivation, something he also practiced on the coast. He quickly became a prominent member of local society.

While he may have escaped the direct attacks of the war, Gignilliat did not escape its effects. At the end of the war, in 1864 the Confederate government impressed 10,000 bushels of corn from his Thomas County plantation, and after the surrender at Appomattox, he was also relieved of 191 pounds of bacon.

After the war, Gignilliat resorted to sharecropping, hiring back the former slaves and paying them to work by sharing the products of the harvest with them. If he provided rations, he gave them only one third of the crop; if they fed themselves, then they got half the crop. All of this new system of contract farming was under the auspices of the Federal Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.

On January 1, 1869, Gignilliat sold the 1500 acre plantation to Dr. Samuel John Jones (1838-1889), another coastal Georgia refugee, being from Liberty County, who fled the military aggression after the war. Jones, after his marriage and medical training, had returned to Liberty County to practice until 1863, when he entered Confederate military service. While on sick leave during the war, he journeyed to Thomasville with his family and Professor Joseph LeConte, a famous Liberty Countian. At that point he purchased the Coalson-Wyche Plantation.

The 1870 Census Agricultural Schedule indicates Jones had 750 acres of cleared land and 750 acres of woodland, still keeping the plantation at its 1500 acre antebellum size. The number of workers and the produce was down from pre-war levels. He raised 1,000 bushels of Indian corn, 50 bushels of oats, and no rice. Only eight bales of

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cotton were ginned, considerably down from pre-war, slave-based cotton farming.

Conditions no doubt improved gradually as reconstruction was lifted and Jones, along with other Southerners, learned to cope with the new society. His first wife, Mary Hayes, died in 1877, and he remarried in 1878 to Mary Elizabeth "Lizzie" Mueller. He died in 1889 having lived into the era in which Thomasville and Thomas County had become a resort area and a haven for the rich and famous from the North primarily as a winter resort.

On January 15, 1891 Mrs. Lizzie Jones, the widow, sold the plantation, now 1,328 acres, for \$10,000 to Charles M. Chapin of Bergen County, New Jersey. Chapin was a member of the extensive Hanna family which eventually came to own more plantations between Thomasville and Tallahassee than any other family group. These include Melrose, Sinkola, Elsoma, Pebble Hill, Hines Hill, Foshalee, Mistletoe, Beverly, Fair Oaks, Ring Oak, at one time Winnstead, among others.

Chapin was a son of Salome M. Hanna (1844-1907) and her first husband, George W. Chapin (1837-1884). She had remarried in 1886 to J. Wyman Jones (1822-1906), founder of Englewood, New Jersey, and a wealthy businessman. Shortly after their marriage they began coming to Thomasville to spend the winters in the milder climate of southwest Georgia. Jones purchased the old MacIntyre place on Lower Cairo Road in 1888 and also assembled the wooded park on Old Monticello Road which in 1895 became Glen Arven Country Club.

Charles Merrill Chapin (1871-1932) was in poor health as a teenager and had come to Bainbridge, Georgia, near Thomasville, with a tutor, in the 1880s. Not satisfied, it was suggested that he try Thomasville, forty miles to the east. He followed that advice and was much better satisfied. After his mother and step-father acquired land there, he offered to buy Elsoma, from his parents, as his own winter residence. When his parents declined, he then purchased the Coalson-Wyche-Jones place in 1891.

The Chapin era at this property lasted only from 1891 to 1896. Chapin came primarily for his health, but he also liked to hunt, and so like many other Northerners, he purchased the plantation for both reasons. In May, 1894, he married Lili Lewis and two years later they sold this plantation, and eventually purchased Elsoma which is owned by their descendants today.

After its purchase by Howard Melville Hanna (1840-1921), the plantation was renamed "Melrose" after the new owner. Hanna was

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Chapin's uncle and his purchase signaled the full beginning of the new era. Hanna, a native of Columbus, Ohio, was one of four siblings who eventually owned property in Thomas County. The other three included, besides his sister, Salome, discussed above, not only their brother Mark Hanna (1837-1921) who entertained presidential candidate and future president William McKinley in 1895 and 1899, but also another sister, Seville, and her husband, Jay C. Morse, who owned Inwood Plantation.

Mel Hanna was inclined toward business, finance and industry instead of politics. He had been very successful in the family's business and was also connected to the original Standard Oil Company and American Tobacco Company. He was so successful that he retired in 1885 at the age of 45 and shortly thereafter began spending his winters in Thomasville.

Hanna married in 1863 Kate Smith from Connecticut and they had six children, three of whom lived to maturity and continued the family's association with Thomasville. Later in 1896, Hanna purchased the nucleus of present-day Pebble Hill plantation which adjoins Melrose on the west. In 1901 he deeded Pebble Hill to his daughter, Kate Hanna Ireland, and gave Melrose to his son, Howard M. Hanna, Jr., reserving for himself a life estate. In 1902 he purchased Winnstead to the north of Melrose and later gave it to another daughter, Gertrude Hanna Haskell. He eventually amassed 14,000 contiguous acres, all of which is still owned today by his descendants.

The main house at Melrose began to be expanded with the help of a local contractor/builder, William Miller (1860-1936). The original core of the antebellum plantation house, basically four large rooms with a central hall, was expanded to the northwest, creating a larger dining room and a stairhall. The two rooms on the right were opened up as one large living room with two fireplaces. A porte cochere was added at the back end of the hall and became the principal entrance to the house, thus changing its orientation.

By 1905, the first phase of the east wing was being added and was later expanded by 1924 to include three bedrooms and a sitting room. The west wing initially had two extra bedrooms and later two more were added. A two-story guest house, which included a bowling alley was connected to the back of the house by a covered walkway in the early 20th century, but the walkway had been removed in the 1920s.

Landscaping around the house was not impressive when the Hannas came into possession, but extensive plantings were made in the early years, including a sunken garden at the northwest corner of the house next to the east wing.

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Kate Smith Hanna died in 1919 and her husband Mel in 1921. The plantation then passed to their son, Howard M. Jr. (1877-1945), to whom it had been deeded in 1901 and again in 1920. A successful businessman like his father, he continued to expand his holdings in Thomas County as well as add to the buildings at Melrose. The frame structures which include the lunch room (no. 12 on site plan), barn (no. 2), chicken house (no. 6), gas room and shed (no. 8), and implement shed (no. 11) may all date from the earlier H.M. Hanna, Senior ownership.

Beginning in 1923 the architectural firm of Walker and Weeks of Cleveland, Ohio began designing buildings that were constructed on Melrose. During the first year, the designed the manager's house (no. 35 on the site plan), south of Tallahassee Road, the stable complex on the north side (no. 5,7,14,16, and 19) which included the horse stables, garages, office, carpenter's shop, milking barn and dairy building. All were constructed of red brick in the Georgian Revival style. In 1929 the mule barn was added behind the stables and the groom's cottage in 1930. Also in 1930 the greenhouse and walled garden were constructed in the same style. The bull barn, calf barn, and pump house were probably all built later, still in the 1930s, and undoubtedly were designed by Walker and Weeks.

The three cottages for workmen at Melrose were also designed by Walker and Weeks. The middle one, known as the Parrish Cottage, was built in 1929 for the family chauffeur. The Banksia Cottage (no. 1) next to the garden was completed in 1931 for the superintendent's residence. The Waldorf (no. 20), named for the famed Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, was the residence for one of the employees, and was built later in the 1930s, as was the Squirrel's Cottage (no. 43) which doubled as a nursery and a guest house.

The Owl's Nest (no. 38) was originally constructed as a guest house in 1927. Several major additions have been made to the initial structure as well as changes in the floor plan. It became the residence of Kate Hanna Bicknell, a daughter of H. M. Hanna, Jr. A pool house (no. 44), built in 1934, was erected between Melrose's main house and the Owl's Nest.

Showboat (no. 18) was built in the 1930s replacing an earlier stable building from the Hanna, Senior era. Showboat, named because of its design, served as a theater for both live performances and motion pictures. It is claimed that the real premier of "Gone With The Wind" was at Melrose's Showboat rather than at Loew's Grand Theatre in Atlanta in December, 1939. John Hay Whitney, owner of nearby Greenwood Plantation, was the owner of the movie.

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The complex of buildings built adjacent to the manager's house on the south side of Tallahassee Road was constructed in the 1920s and 1930s (nos. 23-26, 28-37, 39-42, and 45-48). They became the nucleus of Sinkola Farms, Inc., when Melrose was divided by the Hanna heirs.

Howard M. Hanna, Jr. died in 1945 leaving his widow, Claire, and three daughters as survivors. The daughters were Mrs. Julian Bolton, Mrs. Warren Bicknell, Jr., and Mrs. Gurney Gallien. Mrs. Gallien inherited Mistletoe Plantation on Meridian Road in Grady County near the Florida line. Mrs. Bolton and Mrs. Bicknell shared Melrose as tenants-in-common until 1953, when they divided it. Mrs. Bicknell's portion became known as Sinkola and Mrs. Bolton's continued to be called Melrose.

The ownership of Melrose during the last thirty-five years has become quite complicated. Sinkola Farms, Inc., owned by the entire Bicknell branch of the Hanna family, is generally all of that part of the nominated property south of Tallahassee Road, as well as other property northeast of Melrose which is not included in this nomination. In 1983, Wendy Hanna Bicknell purchased the Owl's Nest and Squirrel's Cottage from her mother, Kate Hanna Bicknell, on Tallahassee Road. This is now part of Sinkola. The joint ownership of Sinkola is in the hands of Mrs. Bicknell and her children.

Following the death of Mrs. Bolton, Melrose passed to her two daughters, Betsey Bolton Schafer and Claire Bolton Jonklaas. In 1986, they disposed of approximately 31 acres, including the main house and stable complex (Nos. 1-22, and 49), to Dr. William F. and Mary Hogan of Thomasville. He is a plastic surgeon and allows his patients to convalesce at Melrose.

Mrs. Bicknell, Mrs. Jonklaas and Mrs. Schafer all have houses elsewhere on the property but none within the nominated acreage which includes only the 1500 acre core originally owned by Henry Wyche in 1839.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Montgomery, Erick D. "Melrose and Sinkola Plantations" Historic Property Information Form, November, 1986. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

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 1,500 acres.

UTM References

Zone Easting Northing

A) 16 E780250 N3411330
B) 16 E782260 N3411360
C) 16 E783300 N3410300
D) 16 E783320 N3408330
E) 16 E781290 N3408270
F) 16 E780260 N3410240

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is marked on the enclosed map entitled "Melrose Plantation & Sinkola". It is the official map of the plantation and is based on ownership plats.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property contains six land lots of 250 acres each (officially). These were originally owned by the owners before 1857 and are the historic core of the current 8,000 acre plantation.

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** November 8, 1989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Photographs
Section number _____ Page 1

MELROSE and SINKOLA PLANTATION
Thomasville, Thomas County, Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative filed at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date: November, 1988
Description:

Note: All numbers refer to site plan/map.

1 of 28: Main House (no. 13), Melrose Plantation. Facing northwest.

2 of 28: Main House, Melrose, with east wing on the left, and sunken garden in the foreground. Facing west.

3 of 28: Main House, Melrose, north facade with porte cochere. Facing east.

4 of 28: Main House, Melrose, east wing with pond. Facing northwest.

5 of 28: Main House, Melrose, Dining Room. Facing southeast.

6 of 28: Main House, Melrose, Living Room. Facing east.

7 of 28: Owl's Nest (no. 38), Sinkola, front facade. Facing west.

8 of 28: Owl's Nest (no. 38), Sinkola, main staircase. Facing northwest.

9 of 28: Owl's Nest (no. 38), Sinkola, sitting room off entrance foyer. Facing southwest.

10 of 28: Squirrel's Cottage (no. 43), in foreground, and Laundry (no. 27), in background, Sinkola. Facing east.

11 of 28: Swimming Pool (no. 44), entrance doors, Sinkola. Facing southeast.

12 of 28: Swimming Pool (no. 44), interior of building with pool, Sinkola. Facing northeast.

13 of 28: Stable (no. 19), on left, and Office and Garage (no. 16), Melrose. Facing northwest.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs
Section number _____ Page 2

14 of 28: Mule Barn (no. 15), Melrose. Facing west.

15 of 28: Milking Barn (no. 14), on left, looking toward Carpenter's Shop (no. 5), Stable (no. 19), and Office/Garage (no. 16) in background, Melrose. Facing northeast.

16 of 28: Lunchroom (no. 12) with Showboat (no. 18) partially in background on left, Wellhouse (no. 21) in background, and Milking Barn (no. 14) on right, Melrose. Facing northwest.

17 of 28: From left to right: Wood Shed (no. 49), Gas Room Shed (no. 8), Implement Shed (no. 11), Bull Barn (no. 3), in center with three roof vents, Calf Barn (no. 4), on right with one roof vent, Melrose. Facing northwest.

18 of 28: Showboat, the theater, front facade (no. 18), with brick Milking Barn (no. 14) in background, Melrose. Facing northeast.

19 of 28: Showboat, the theater, (no. 18), interior showing stage, Melrose. Facing northeast.

20 of 28: Chicken House (no. 6), with Barn (no. 2) in middle background and Showboat (no. 18), in right background, Melrose. Facing northeast.

21 of 28: Dairy Building (no. 7), with garden in rear, Melrose. Facing northeast.

22 of 28: Manager's House (no. 35), Sinkola. Facing northwest.

23 of 28: Tenant Dwelling no. 45, or Dog Trainer's House (no. 46), Sinkola. Facing northeast.

24 of 28: Water Tower, Horse Barn (no. 30) and Mule Barn (no. 36), Sinkola. Facing northeast.

25 of 28: Lunchroom, now Office, (no. 33), on left, Greenhouse (no. 29), in middle, and Granary (no. 28) on right, Sinkola. Facing northeast.

26 of 28: Barn No. 1 (no. 23), in middle, and Tenant Dwellings (no. 45), on right, Sinkola. Facing northeast.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Photographs _____ Page 3

27 of 28: Garage (no. 26), on left, and Lunchroom, now office,
(no. 33) on right, Sinkola. Facing southeast.

28 of 28: Creosote Tanks and sheds, located behind no. 36,
Sinkola. Facing southeast.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Sketch Map Key
Section number _____ Page 1

Melrose and Sinkola Plantations; Key to Site Plans/Sketch Maps

(N) = north of Tallahassee Road (Map 1), and (S) = south of Tallahassee Road (Map 2)

NOTE: All are contributing properties. Two are undocumented.

1. Banksia Cottage (N) 1931
2. Barn (N) no date given - contributing
3. Bull Barn (N) 1930s
4. Calf Barn (N) 1930s
5. Carpenter's Shop (N) c. 1923
6. Chicken Shed (N) unknown ? undocumented (not counted)
7. Dairy Building (N) 1923 (date uncertain)
8. Gas Room and Shed (N) no date, contributing
9. Green House and Garden (N) 1930, counted as one
10. Groom's Cottage (N) 1930
11. Implement Shed (N) no date, contributing
12. Lunch Room (N) c. 1923 or earlier
13. Main House at Melrose (N)
14. Milking Barn (N) 1923
15. Mule Barn (N) 1928
16. Garage/Office/Garage and Laundry (N) 1923, counted as 3 buildings
17. Parrish Cottage (N) 1929
18. Showboat (N) 1930s
19. Horse Stables (N) 1923

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Sketch Map Key
Section number _____ Page 2

-
20. Waldorf (N) 1930s
 21. Well House (N) 1930s
 22. Wood House and Cold Storage (N) 1920s or 1930s
 23. Barn (S) 1930s
 24. Seed Room, formerly Cooling House (S) 1930s
 25. Fuel or Gas Pump House (S) 1930s
 26. Machine Shop and Garage (S) 1930s
 27. Garage and Laundry (N) c. 1927 (one building)
 28. Barn and Granary (S) 1930s (one building)
 29. Greenhouses (S) 1930s w/ 1970s addition (3 buildings)
 30. Horse Barn (S) 1930s
 31. Kennel Cook House (S) 1930s
 32. Dog Hospital (S) 1930s
 33. Owner's Office, formerly Lunch Room (S) 1930s
 34. Machine and Equipment Shed (S) 1930s (one building)
 35. Manager's House (S) 1923
 36. Storage Shed, formerly Mule Barn (S) 1930s
 37. Farm Office (S) 1930
 38. Owl's Nest (N) 1927, 1948, 1960
 39. Paint Shop (S) 1930s
 40. Cane Mill, formerly Processing Shed (S) no photo and no date, undocumented
 41. Carpenter Shop, formerly Commissary (S) 1930s

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Continuation Sheet**

Sketch Map Key
Section number _____ Page 3

- 42. Smoke House (S) no date, contributing
- 43. Squirrel's Cottage (N) 1930s
- 44. Swimming Pool (N) 1933, 1934
- 45. Tenant Houses (S) 1930s (counted as 3)
- 46. Wildlife Manager's House, formerly Dog Trainer's (S) 1930s
- 47. Water Tank (S) 1930s
- 48. Pump House and Wood Shed (S) 1930s (counted as one)
- 49. Wood Shed (N) no date, contributing
- 50. Cemetery, contributing

Floor Plan

Melrose and Sinkola Plantation
Vicinity of Thomasville, Thomas County,
Georgia

Scale: not to scale

Source: Drawn by Erick D. Montgomery

Date: 1986

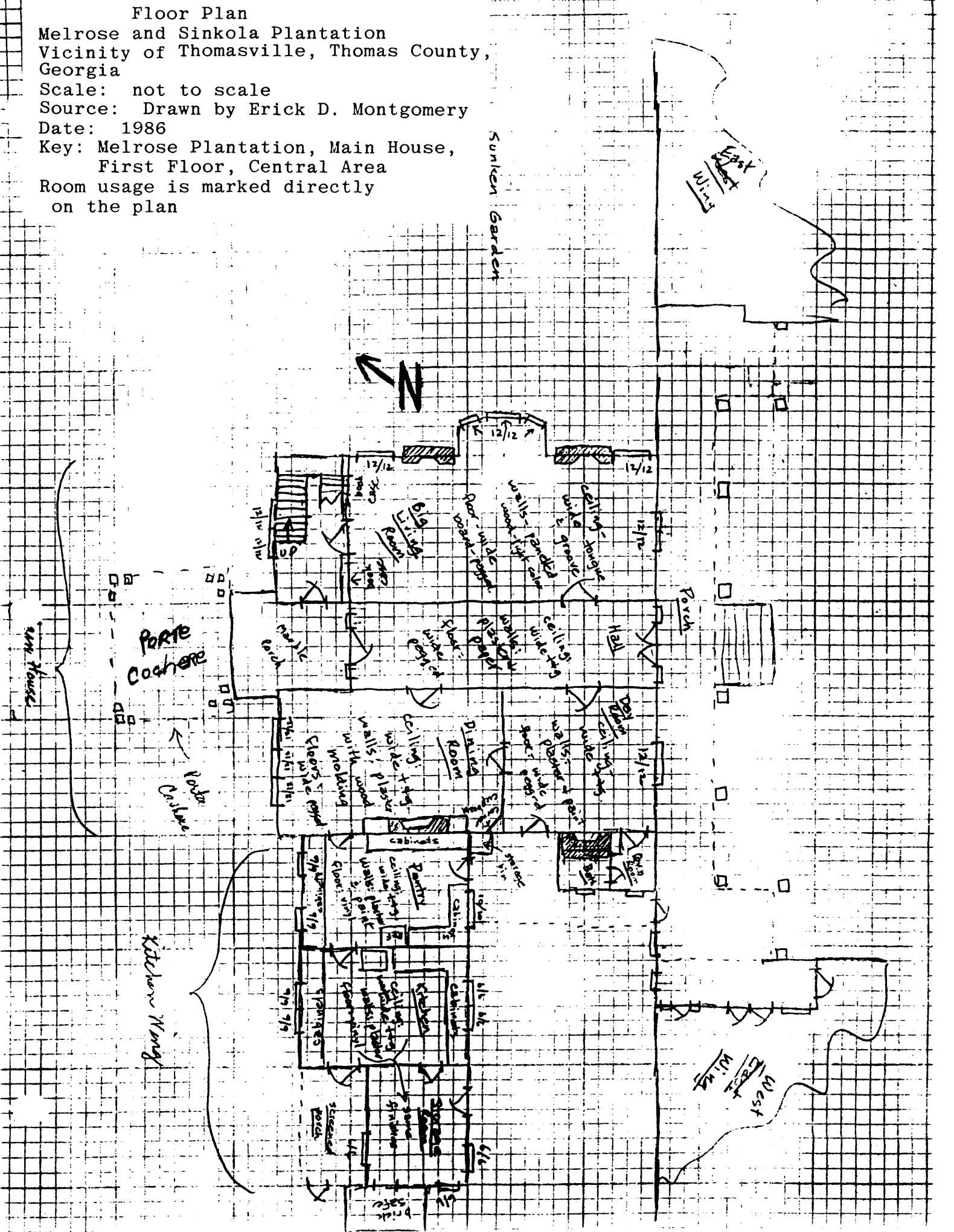
Key: Melrose Plantation, Main House,
First Floor, Central Area

Room usage is marked directly
on the plan

Sunken Garden

East Wing

West Wing



Porte Cochere

Parlor

Kitchen Wing

Hall

Dining Room

Bathroom

Bedroom

Closet

Sunken Garden

6'9" x 8'9" Room

12'12" x 12'12" Room

9'9" x 11'9" Room

9'9" x 9'9" Room

9'9" x 9'9" Room

12'12"

12'12"

12'12"

12'12"

12'12"

12'12"

12'12"

12'12"

12'12"

plaster wood

wood paneling

plaster

wood paneling

plaster

wood paneling

plaster

wood paneling

plaster

wood paneling

plaster

wood paneling

plaster

wood paneling

plaster

wood paneling

plaster

wood paneling

sun house

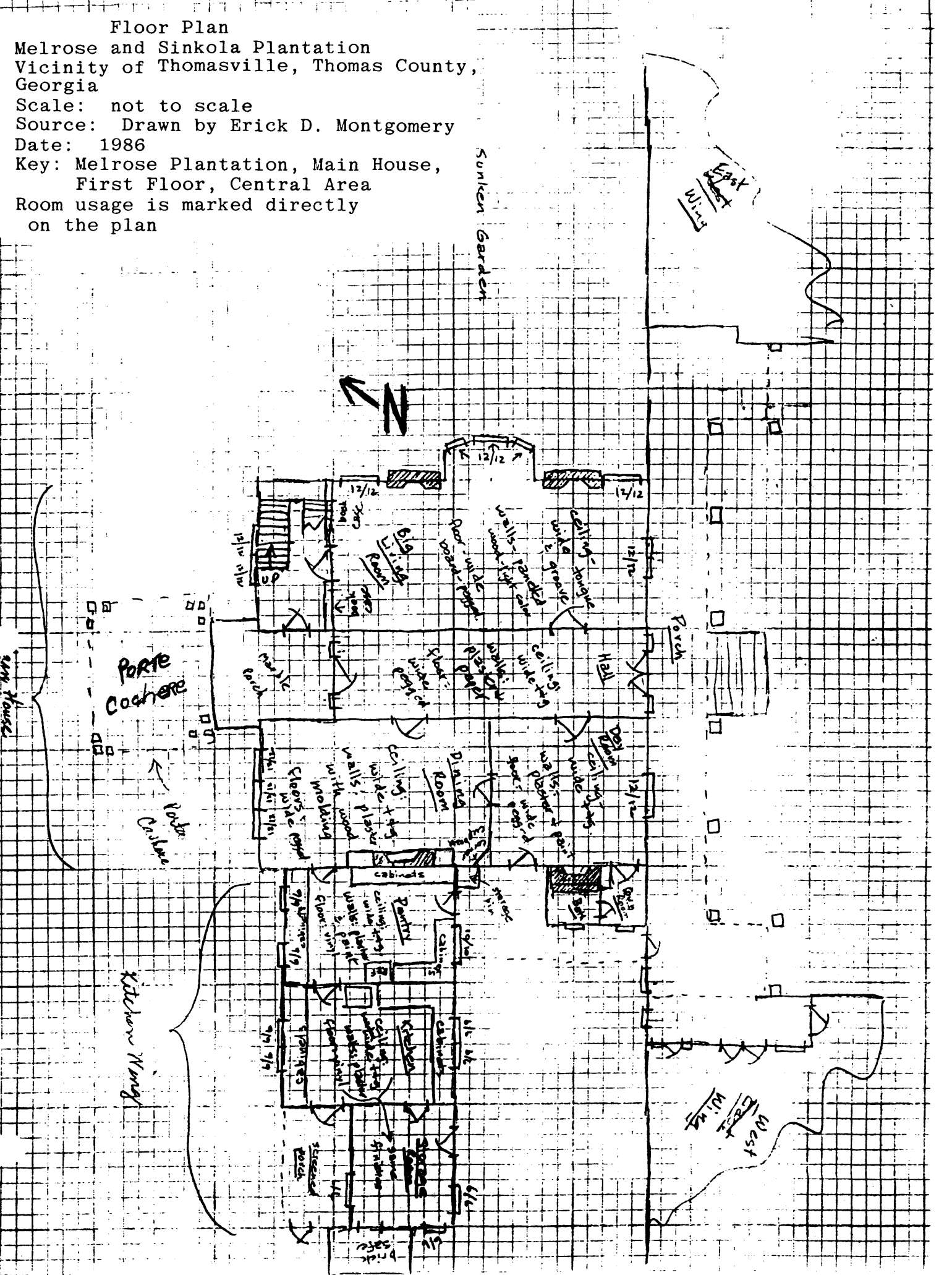
sun house

sun house

sun house

East Wing

West Wing



Floor Plan

Melrose and Sinkola Plantation
Vicinity of Thomasville, Thomas County,
Georgia

Scale: not to scale

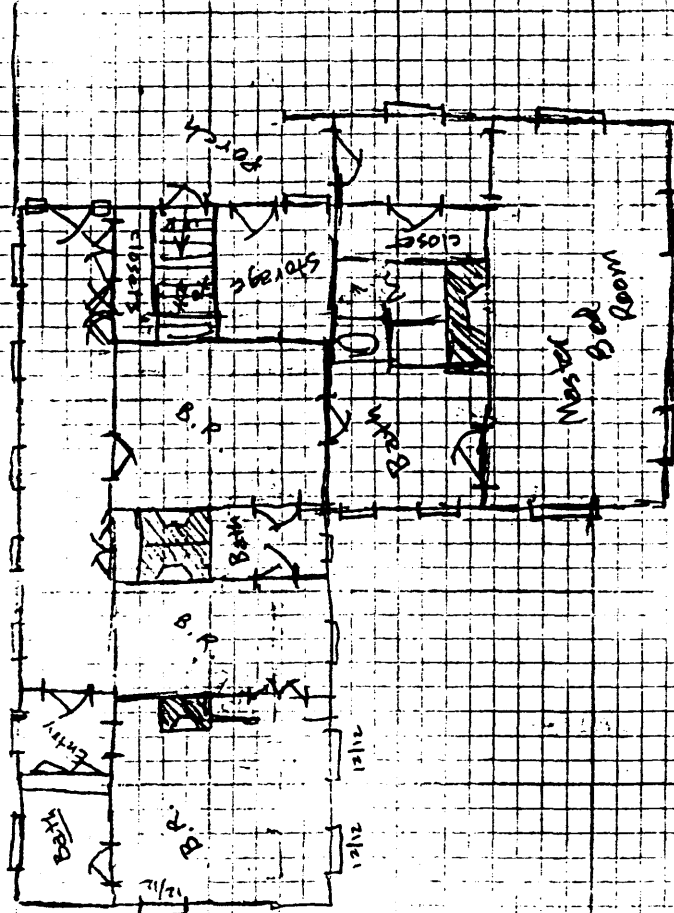
Source: Drawn by Erick D. Montgomery

Date: 1986

Key: Melrose Plantation, Main House,
First Floor, West Wing

Room usage is marked directly
on the plan

West Wing
12' x 12' x 9'



MELROSE - East Wing

Floor Plan

Melrose and Sinkola Plantation
Vicinity of Thomasville, Thomas County,
Georgia

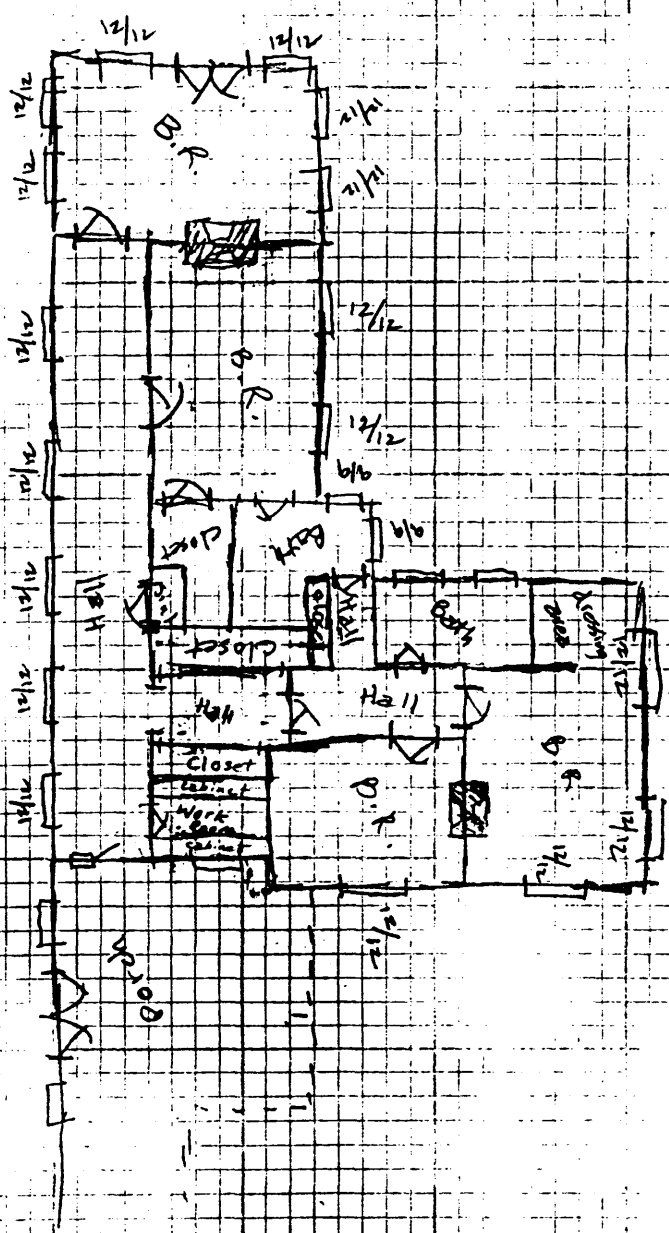
Scale: not to scale

Source: Drawn by Erick D. Montgomery

Date: 1986

Key: Melrose Plantation, Main House,
First Floor, East Wing

Room usage is marked directly
on the plan



Sketch Map

Map 1 of 2

Melrose and Sinkola Plantations
Vicinity of Thomasville
Thomas County, Georgia

Scale: not to scale

Source: drawn by Erick D. Montgomery

Date: 1986

Key: See continuation sheet

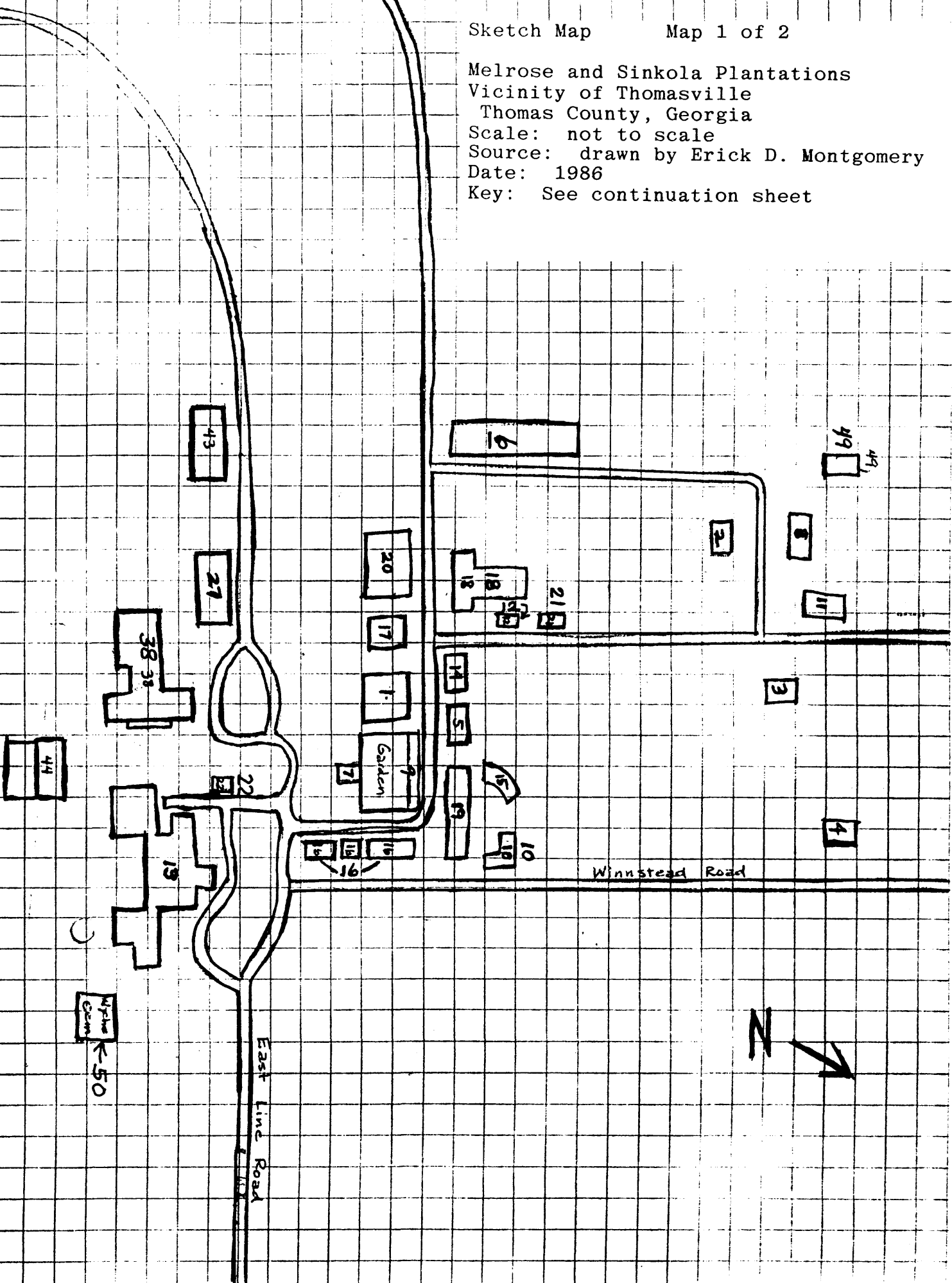
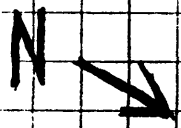
South ← US Highway 319 → north

(Tallahassee Road)

East Line Road

Winstead Road

Myrtle
Gum
← 50



Sketch Map

Map 2 of 2

Melrose and Sinkola Plantations
Vicinity of Thomasville
Thomas County, Georgia

Scale: not to scale

Source: drawn by Erick D. Montgomery

Date: 1986

Key: See continuation sheet

north



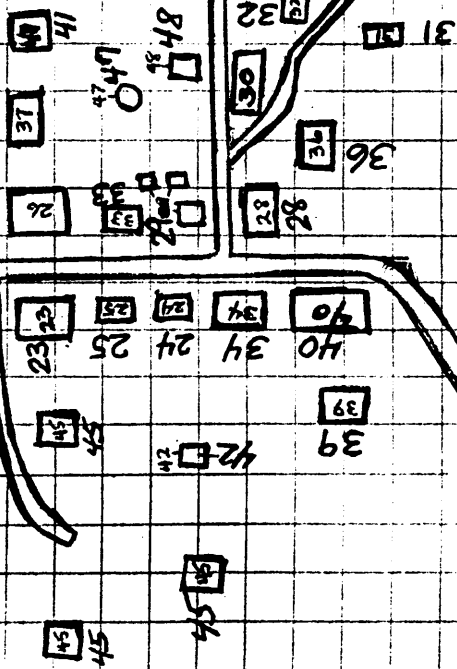
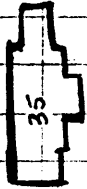
U.S. Highway 319



(Tallahassee Road)

Sinkola Drive

Chapin Gate Road



Boundary Map

Melrose and Sinkola Plantations
Vicinity of Thomasville, Thomas
County, Georgia

Scale: as marked on the map

Source: From the owners

Date: before 1986

Key: The nominated property is
marked by a heavy black line with
shading on the inside of the line

MELROSE PLANTATION & SINKOLA

THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA

