

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 6 1976

DATE ENTERED OCT 14 1976

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
1 NAME

HISTORIC Matthews House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

N.E. of Danburg on GA 79

(Mailing Address: Route 1, Box 80, Danburg, Georgia)

--NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Chennault Danburg vic.

VICINITY OF

10th - Robert G. Stephens, Jr.

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Georgia

13

Lincoln

181

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

 DISTRICT PUBLIC OCCUPIED AGRICULTURE MUSEUM BUILDING(S) PRIVATE UNOCCUPIED COMMERCIAL PARK STRUCTURE BOTH WORK IN PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS OBJECT IN PROCESS YES: RESTRICTED GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC BEING CONSIDERED YES: UNRESTRICTED INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION NO MILITARY OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Matthews

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 80

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 LOCALDEPOSITORY 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 Matthews House is located on the east side of State Highway 79, the old Augusta Road, approximately thirteen miles north of Lincolnton, Lincoln County, Georgia, and approximately a third of a mile south of the intersection of State Highways 79 and 44. It is a Greek Revival frame weatherboarded structure, built in the late 1850's, with a full width two story portico with a full width cantilevered gallery which probably early in this century, was given additional support by iron bands suspended from rafters in the roof. The pitched gabled roof supports two central chimneys, serving eight interior fireplaces. A shed roof, with boxed cornices or returns, spans the width of the rear facade and was originally filled in on the south end, leaving a small porch which was enclosed in two stages in this century. The acreage on which the house is located consists of field and wood land which has been in the Matthews family since Joseph Fenton Mathews and his wife Lutetia, settled there in the 1840's.

The five-bayed portico of the front or west facade is supported by six fluted Doric columns which are spaced at equal intervals beneath an entablature decorated only by a thin, continuous molding and a row of dentils under the eave of the roof. The balusters of the gallery are, by comparison, more ornate with their lathed rolls and swells perhaps intentionally suggestive of the muscular strength implied by the entasis of the earliest Greek columns of the Doric order, a feature which is otherwise only approximated here in the tapering of the fluted wood columns. The single, six-paneled door of the central portal of the first story of this facade has a transom and sidelights, is flanked by fluted moldings and is topped by a flat, slightly pedimented lintel with a boxed lintel above it which frames the pedimental shape. To either side of this portal, set directly behind the second columns from the ends of the portico, are shuttered double windows, each of the four windows having four over four large panes of glass. The straight boxed lintels above these double windows complement well the lintel of the central portal. The second story of this facade has four single six over six paned windows, two to either side of a transomed and sidelighted six paneled door to the gallery. The ornateness of the gallery balustrade is balanced by the simplicity of the flat window and door frames on this story.

The north and south elevations are alike in that they both continue features which occur on the front or west facade. On the first story towards the front of the house on both these elevations there is a double window with boxed lintel identical to those beneath the portico. Indeed, the elements of the portico itself are continued on these side elevations, and the fact that the portico is contained beneath the roof of the house is emphasized by the use of long boxed cornices or returns at the base of the gables. In each gable occurs a smaller double window, lacking the boxed lintel, and having a pair of six over four paned windows but reiterating the essential feature of the double form as it is seen on the first story. Two single windows towards the front of the house on the second story repeat the window arrangement on the second story of the west facade. And the single window towards the back of the house on both these elevations repeats the single window around the corner on the east facade.

The east or back facade displays a simple arrangement, with three single windows equidistant from one another placed on the second story. On the first story, there was originally an asymmetrical arrangement, caused by the necessity of locating the dining room on the southeast corner of the first floor, close to the kitchen which was originally located off the south side of the house towards the southeast corner and was approached from the dining room by a covered walkway. One original outbuilding remains, a smokehouse

(continued)

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approximately twenty-five feet from the rear of the house. Two small barns off the south east corner of the house were built, probably in the last years of the 19th century, by Walter Matthews, the father of the present owner. The only other outbuilding close to the house is a small dwelling built by the present owner, next to Highway 79, to house a caretaker. It does not obstruct the view of the Matthews House from the road.

The interior of the first story of the Matthews House has a central hall with four surrounding rooms, the front two of which are eighteen feet square and the back two of which are of unequal size with the northeast corner room being twelve by eighteen feet and the southeast corner room being eighteen feet square. The east end of the central hall has a double door, with transom but no sidelights, which leads to the back porch. Each of these two doors has four vertical panels, as do all the interior doors of the house. All the interior doors and the exterior doors off the central hall display their original oak graining. The moldings of all three interior doors off this first story hallway are identical on the hallway side, but the molding pattern is repeated on the other side of only the two front rooms, where the same pattern occurs on all four interior double window moldings. The northeast corner room side of the third hallway door molding displays a less complex arrangement of beveling and has no beading, unlike the other moldings. It is this care to the visual accentuation of the two first story front rooms through the use of identical and complex moldings around the doors and double windows that indicates these four windows are original to the house.

A straight stair leads from the central hall on the first floor to the central hall on the second floor. The two front rooms off the central hall on the second floor are eighteen feet square, while the back two rooms are twelve by eighteen feet. As on the first story, closets flank the fireplaces in front and rear rooms on the north side of the house. With the exception of the mantels in the front two rooms on the first story, all mantels in the house consist of a simple arrangement of plain flat pilasters supporting an unadorned entablature atop which rests a beveled shelf. However, the mantels in the two front rooms of the first story, in keeping with the emphasis on the decorative elaboration of these two rooms, display in their pilasters a pair of single lancets in the northwest room and a pair of single cusped lancets in the southwest room. Further, in the northwest room on this story there is a broad beaded picture molding and a central oval floral medallion.

A second straight stair leads from the central hall on the second floor to the attic. The roof structure of the attic is identical to that of the Chennault House, Lincoln County, with four supporting interior posts joining purlins halfway down each slope. However, here at the Matthews House, the attic was partially floored when the house was built, creating a square central hall with two doors meant to provide access to two additional rooms. These two rooms were never floored.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1855-60

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Matthews House pertains to its architecture and its position in local history in the years just before the Civil War. The family tradition, which Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Matthews -- the present owners and occupants of the house -- feel certain is correct, is that the Matthews House was begun by Joseph Matthews, Wayne Matthews great-grandfather, that it took three years to build and that it was completed just before the beginning of the Civil War. This tradition is supported by the documentary evidence, for a carpenter by the name of John Cunningham and a painter by the name of Benjamin Sayer were living with the Matthews in 1860, according to the Census of that year.

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

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 seem to be the Chennault House, which is similar in appearance to the Willis-Sale-Stennett House, particularly in its incorporation of the portico with the main body of the house and, more generally, in its characteristic late Greek Revival robustness.

The next house in the series would seem then to be the Matthews House, a variation on a theme, as it were. Its portico is also beneath the roof, and it, like the portico of the Chennault House, has a full width balcony, but the round columns of the portico of the Matthews House are fluted and have more elaborate Doric capitals, resulting in a visual complexity which exceeds the simplicity of the Chennault House. The Matthews House, like the Chennault House has tall double windows on the first story, but they are emphasized by fully three-dimensional boxed lintels, rather than the flat lintels of the Chennault House.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chambers, Margaret, personal inspections - September 24, 1975 and October 27, 1975
 Chambers, Margaret, interviews with Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Matthews, Sept. 24, 1975 & Oct. 27, 1975
 Ga. Department of Archives and History - County Records - Tax Digests, 1853-61; Census Records, 1820-1880.
Matthews Family Bible records.
 Saggus, Charles, A Social and Economic History of the Danburg Community, MA. Thesis, Univ. of Georgia, 1951.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 48
 UTM REFERENCES (SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The western corner of the boundary of the Matthews House site is located on State Highw y 79, at the intersection of State Highway 79 and the Prater property line, approximately 1500 feet southeast of the intersection of State Highways 79 and 44. From thence the boundary follows the Prater property line, forming a straight line in a northeasterly direction for approximately 1900 feet to the northern corner of the Matthews House site boundary. The boundary then turns to the southeast and forms a straight line for approximately 1,000 feet to the eastern corner. The boundary then turns to the southwest and forms a straight line

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

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

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources. February 12, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

270 Washington Street, S.W., Room 703-C

404-656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Atlanta

Georgia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

David M. Sherman

6-25-76

TITLE

DAVID M. SHERMAN

DATE

Chief, Historic Preservation Section

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
Acting	DATE 10/14/96
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE 10-8-76
ATTEST	
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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The Anderson House, as the fourth in this series, when compared with the Matthews House, is seen as dependent upon an even greater complexity in its decorative detailing, while the house as a whole retains the massive girth combined with the use of many large windows to open up the walls which are two features common to all four houses. 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, acts as Cunningham's Agent, but in 1856 and 1857 Cunningham pays his own tax and is living 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 area in which these four houses were built was completed by 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 vocabulary. 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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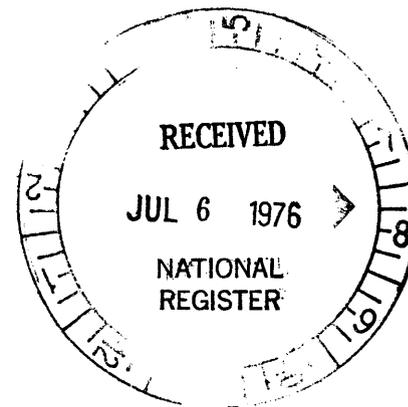
DATE ENTERED OCT 14 1976

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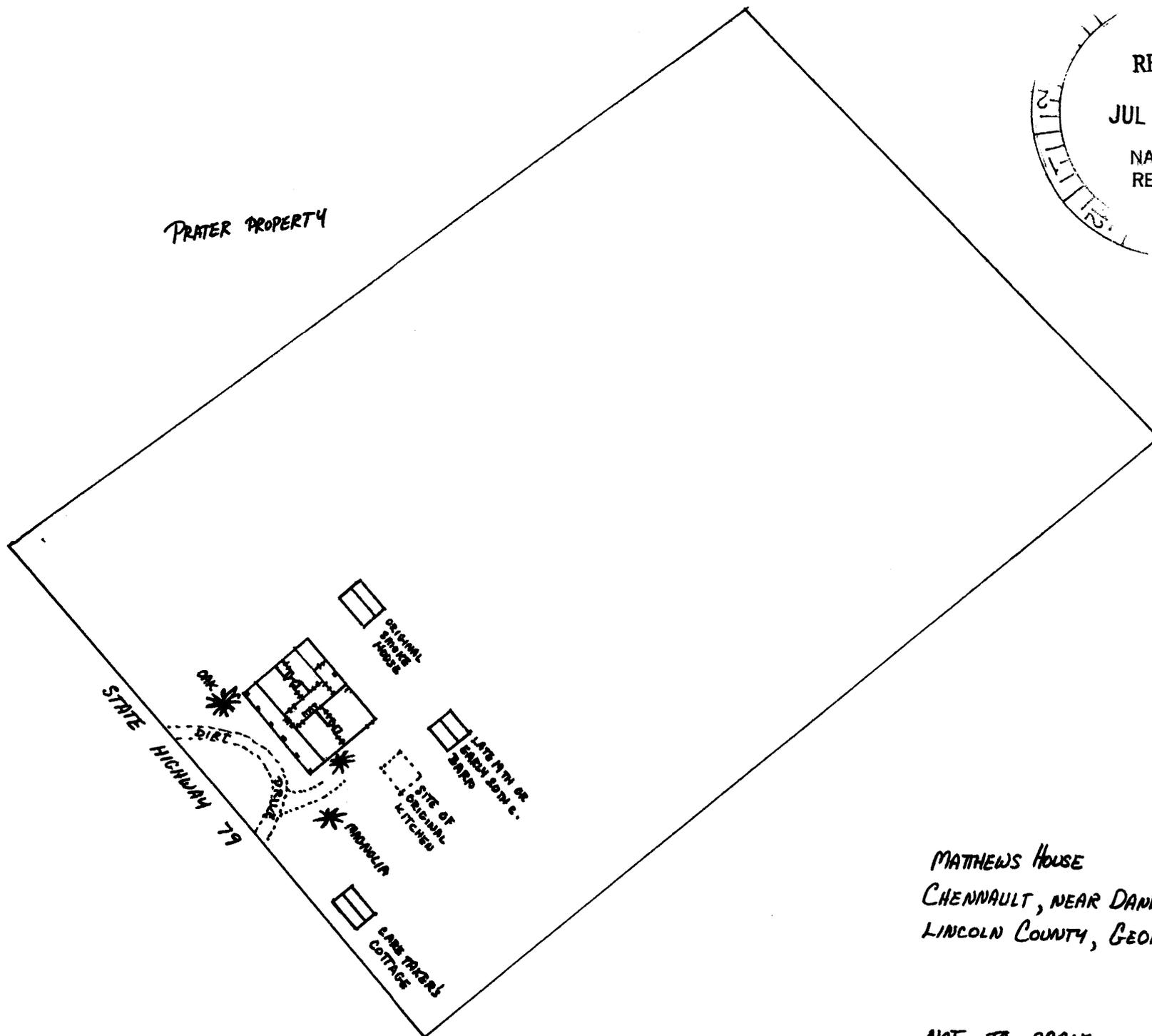
	Latitude	Longitude	
NW	33° 54' 26"	82° 35' 56"	36
NE	33° 54' 26" 20	82° 35' 30"	
SE	33° 54' 06"	82° 35' 30"	46
SW	33° 54' 06" 16	82° 35' 56"	

Verbal Boundary Description (cont.)

for approximately 1900 feet to the southern corner of the boundary where this segment of the boundary intersects with State Highway 79. The boundary then turns in a north-westerly direction, following State Highway 79 for approximately 1100 feet, back to the beginning point.



PRATER PROPERTY



MATHEWS HOUSE
CHENNAULT, NEAR DANBURG
LINCOLN COUNTY, GEORGIA

NOT TO SCALE

21

NPS Number 10.14.76
Title: Matthews Home
Lincoln Co., Georgia
Loc. sketch map of
property by Margaret
Chambers

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER