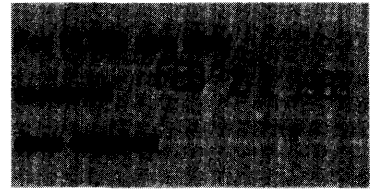


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic John W. Rice Summer Cottage
and/or common Rock House

2. Location

street & number 254 Concord Road N/A not for publication
city, town Smyrna vicinity of 7th congressional district Larry McDonald
state Georgia code 013 county Cobb code 067

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Roger J. Peaster
street & number 254 Concord Road
city, town Smyrna N/A vicinity of _____ state Georgia 30080

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court
street & number Cobb County Courthouse
city, town Marietta state _____

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date _____ federal state county local
depository for survey records None
city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 John W. Rice Summer Cottage is a turn-of-the-century seasonal residence set into the side of a hill near the top of a narrow promontory overlooking Nickajack Creek in Cobb County. The original cottage is two stories high and square in plan with a pyramidal roof and a short lateral ell. It is built entirely of fieldstone laid with thick mortar joints. The house is situated so that the full two stories are exposed on the downhill side and only one story is revealed on the uphill side. A one-story side porch of slab stonemasonry replaced an original wooden side porch. Recently, a one-story wood-frame ell has been added to the rear of the building. Three chimneys, two interior and one exterior, rise above the roofline. Detailing is confined to the fieldstone masonry itself plus a seemingly random arrangement of variously sized and shaped windows. The interior of the original cottage consists of one large and two smaller rooms plus a hall on the second floor and two large rooms plus storage and service spaces on the first floor; a simple wood stairway runs between the larger second-floor room and the larger first-floor room. The thick stonemasonry walls are smoothly plastered on the interior and are beveled or chamfered around the various window openings. Floors and ceilings are of plank supported by a heavy timber frame. Fireplace mantels feature elaborate wood molding and incised decoration. The cottage is picturesquely situated near the top of a wooded promontory overlooking the creek. Several stone walks, stairways, and terraces are found around the grounds; a dirt driveway approaches the house from the rear. An early-twentieth-century streetcar, used as an entertainment pavilion, and now in a deteriorated condition, is located on the hillside a short distance from the house.

The stonemasonry-rubble ruins of the dam that once served Ruff's Mill to the southeast are found in the southwest portion of this property on Nickajack Creek.

Photographs

The Historic Preservation Section has determined that the photographs taken in April, 1980 still provide an accurate view of the property. No significant changes have been made since that date.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) "Local history"
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c. 1900 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John W. Rice Summer Cottage is significant in terms of Georgia's architectural history and in terms of the local history of Cobb County and the Atlanta area. Architecturally, the house is a very unusual example of a seasonal residence in Georgia. Its design and construction materials set it apart from not only conventional turn-of-the-century dwellings but also its contemporary Georgia seasonal residences. Historically, the house is significant for its association with John W. Rice, a patented inventor who also owned and operated the nearby Concord Woolen Mills. This areas of significance support National Register eligibility in terms of National Register Criteria B and C.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

John Woodson Rice (1867–1946), who built and lived seasonally in the Rice Summer Cottage, was a man of diverse interests. He was the son of Z. A. Rice (1822–1890), an antebellum justice in Atlanta, newspaper owner, Civil War officer, and industrialist. Z. A. Rice had joined with several other investors to develop, in 1867, the Concord Woolen Mills. The mill was built just downstream from the site of the later Rice Summer Cottage. Around the mill grew up a complete mill village. In 1905, when the Seaboard Coastline Railroad laid tracks through the area, a station stop known as Rice's Station or Rice, Georgia was established. After Z. A. Rice's death, John W. Rice assumed ownership of the mill and operated it until his retirement in 1907. His initial and greatest challenge was in rebuilding the mill after a fire in 1889, the last year of the elder Rice's control of the industry. He also established his seasonal residency in the vicinity during these years. The Concord Woolen Mills belong to the post-bellum period of industrialization in the south that has come to be known as the "New South" of the late nineteenth century.

In addition to being a local industrialist, John W. Rice was also an inventor. In 1901, he was granted a patent for a Duplicate Whist Card Case; in 1903, for a Combined Communications Sheet and Envelope; and in 1908, for an Adjustable Stand (for shaving). It is not known at this time how many other inventions he may have tried to patent during these years. It is also not known if Rice's inventions, although patented, were ever marketed or brought him any money. In this respect, then, Rice represents a time in American history when many persons emulated professional inventors like Thomas Edison in the quest for "miracle" inventions.

On December 14, 1899, John W. Rice married Ethel Mell of Atlanta. His marriage may have influenced his decision to build a summer house in Cobb County. When not living at the summer house, the Rices lived at various addresses in the city of Atlanta. None of the Rices' in-town homes have survived, and the Concord Woolen Mills are now in ruins. Thus the summer cottage is the only extant structure associated with the life of John W. Rice.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3.71 acres

Quadrangle name Mableton, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	7	2	5	8	4	0	3	7	4	7	9	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary is marked on the enclosed sketch map and is as cited in Cobb County, Georgia Deed Book 1587, p. 287. The land is all that is currently associated with this house and due to natural boundaries (creek and roads) is all that was historically associated with it as well.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., historian, Richard Cloues, architectural historian

organization Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources date January 24, 1983
Historic Preservation Section

street & number 270 Washington Street, S. W. telephone 404-656-2840

city or town Atlanta state Georgia 30334

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 2/4/83

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Linda McClelland date 4/8/83
Keeper of the National Register
Attest: Patrick Andrews date 4/7/83
Chief of Registration

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In 1907 John W. Rice retired from business. He sold the Concord Woolen Mills (then known as the Concord Manufacturing Company) and his summer house to Mrs. Annie E. (Gillespie) Johnson of Rome, Georgia. A New York native, she had married in 1876, J. Lindsay Johnson (1855-1915), a native Georgian who was a lawyer in Rome, a planter, a state legislator in the 1880s, and after 1903 publisher of the Rome Tribune. In 1914 he was appointed U. S. Census Bureau Chief in the Philippines, where he then moved. After his death in 1915, his wife assumed control of the Rome newspaper and continued to run the manufacturing operations. Previously, in 1910, she had tried to make arrangements for establishing a colony for Russian Jews in the mill village. This effort made her one of the few Georgians, and even fewer Georgia women, who sought to ameliorate the immigrant problems of the era. Even earlier she had been a founder of the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs, and from 1897 to 1901 she served as the Federation's second statewide president.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

In terms of architecture, the John W. Rice Summer Cottage is historically significant as a fine local example of the unconventional seasonal residences that were built throughout this country during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries but which are relatively rare in Georgia. The overall arrangement and the floor plan of the cottage reveal that this was not a standard residence: large open spaces and an informal interior layout were the rule here as in other contemporary seasonal homes, and suggest a relaxed and intimate atmosphere characteristic of seasonal home living. The stonemasonry walls relate well to their rugged natural setting and capture the essence of the rustic effect so often sought by this kind of dwelling design. The seemingly random arrangement of variously sized and shaped windows conveys perhaps better than any other aspect of the structure a sense of the willful whimsy that represents the character of the carefree, get-away-from-it-all lifestyle associated with such turn-of-the-century seasonal homes, a character that is perhaps especially appropriate to the innovative and somewhat unorthodox life of an inventor. Details of the house are also in and of themselves outstanding and somewhat unusual from a design and appearance standpoint. Chief among them are the rough fieldstone masonry with its highlighted mortar joints, the exterior window treatment, the beveled or chamfered interior window openings that emphasize the massive sculptural quality of the house, the post and beam interior construction that is characteristic of the textile mills with which John Rice was so closely involved, and the absence of period detail. Enhancing all these architectural qualities is the landscaped setting of the house near the top of a narrow promontory overlooking Nickajack Creek.

Georgia has a long history of seasonal residential architecture; in this history, the John W. Rice Summer Cottage is virtually unique. Seasonal residences were built during the three decades before the Civil War in the Georgia Mountains for coastal planters seeking refuge from the heat, humidity, and disease of coastal summers. Most of these antebellum seasonal homes tended to be either simple country versions of the prevailing Greek Revival style, such as Acoa in Habersham County, or sophisticated interpretations of Andrew Jackson Downing's Gothic Revival style, such as Blythewood or Woodlands, also in Habersham County. During the Civil War and Reconstruction, construction of seasonal homes virtually came to a halt. Resort home activity resumed toward the end of the nineteenth

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century, and focused on resort communities like Thomasville and coastal islands including Jekyll, St. Simons, and Cumberland. Seasonal homes of this period, referred to as "cottages," tended to be large and grandiose, and they followed prevailing design principles of late Victorian architecture. The Shingle style and the Queen Anne style dominated late nineteenth century designs; Neoclassical and Revival Styles prevailed in the early twentieth century. These styles were freely adapted, however, to produce a recognizable "seasonal" character. Another approach to the seasonal architecture of these times, one that was much less flamboyant, was that of the traditional or the vernacular, as exemplified by the Plantation Plain-style hunting lodge at Possum Poke in southwest Georgia and the rustic log lodges in the Betty's Creek area of Rabun County in north Georgia. But apparently few seasonal houses were built with the deliberate disregard for architectural convention that is manifest in the John W. Rice Summer Cottage. Perhaps closest in character is the Lapham-Patterson House in Thomasville, a National Historic Landmark, noted for its highly eclectic Victorian styling and its unusual, even idiosyncratic interior arrangement. It is to this relatively small group of unconventional seasonal homes, then, that the John W. Rice Summer Cottage belongs, and in this context it makes an important statement about the breadth of architectural design at the turn of the century in Georgia.

The historic architectural integrity of the John W. Rice Summer Cottage has been maintained to a large degree despite additions and alterations to the structure. The main body of the house is virtually intact on the exterior and interior. The side porch, originally wood framed, was replaced by a stone porch in the early twentieth century, but this new porch follows closely the size and proportions of the original porch and reads, like the original porch did, as an adjunct to the main body of the house. To the rear of the house has been added a mid twentieth century woodframed ell. Although obscuring part of the original rear wall of the house, it is clearly an addition to the structure and does not hide its historic identity. Furthermore, because of its orientation, the rear ell is visible only from the back yard of the property. Views of the house, especially from the front, looking up toward the house on the leading edge of the promontory, are virtually unimpaired by the additions and alterations, (see photograph 1). The striking visual impact of the house in its natural setting has been maintained.

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Bibliography

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Research by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon M. Ruckart of Smyrna, Georgia. Typed copy in files of Historic Preservation Section.

The Atlanta Journal, Sept. 14, 1946; obituary of John W. Rice.

Z. A. and John W. Rice Collection in possession of descendant, Marvin Mell Rice, attorney, of Atlanta, and interview with him, May 1, 1980.

Atlanta and Environs, Vol. III (1954), sketch of Rice family.

The National Encyclopedia of American Biography, Vol. VIII, p. 128, "J. Lindsay Johnson."

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Arnold Shankman, "The Galveston Movement: The Letters of Annie E. Johnson and Jacob Schiff" The Atlanta Historical Journal, Fall 1979, 77-83.

JOHN W. RICE SUMMER COTTAGE
Smryna, Cobb County, Georgia

SKETCH MAP
Not to Scale

OCT 22 1980

Source: Based on County Tax Map and Deed
Book 1587, p. 287

Drawn: July 1980

