

PH036179x

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 8 1976

DATE ENTERED

OCT 8 1976

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 *Wm*

* Elston House
AND/OR COMMON

Barta House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Turner's Mill Road, Rural Route 1

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Talladega 35160

X VICINITY OF

3

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Alabama

01

Talladega

121

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
 - UNOCCUPIED
 - WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
 - YES: UNRESTRICTED
 - NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

E. F. Barta

STREET & NUMBER

Turner's Mill Road, Rural Route 1

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Talladega

X VICINITY OF

Alabama

35160

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY 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 Elston-Barta House, constructed in the early 1830's, is located on a six acre tract of the original 700 acre plantation and faces out onto a dirt road 2 miles from Highway 93. Constructed as a plantation home, the house is a simple and well proportioned example of the earliest form of Georgian architecture in the state. The lack of a central hall, the corbled shoulders and brick caps of the chimneys, the brick cornice on the rear of the structure and the fine interior trim reflect the influence of structures built nearly a century earlier along the Carolina seaboard.

The central block (36 1/2' x 18') of the two story, brick structure has a low gabled roof, recently recovered with cedar shakes, and is four bays wide. A two story veranda crosses the front or southern facade which is distinguished by the use of brick laid in Flemish Bond. Two single entrys with six raised panels and three lite transoms alternate with two double hung, 9 over 9, windows topped with flat arches. Above, a similar door gives access to the second floor of the veranda. Here the windows are 9 over 6, and like all windows and doors, are recessed approximately 10 inches from the front plane of the wall. Fine brick chimneys with corbled shoulders and brick caps are located on either end of the main block while a third chimney is located on the rear of a back wing.

The square (18' x 18'), one story, rear wing rests on a five foot deep basement and is distinguished by a brick cornice similar to that on the rear of the main block. On the rear wing, single, six panel doors with three lite transoms open to the exterior on both the eastern and western walls. During the mid 19th Century, a covered walkway located within the ell formed by the wing was enclosed with board and batten to form a kitchen. In the recent restoration, the board and batten was stripped away and replaced with large glass panels leaving the post exposed. This area forms a modern sitting room, kitchen and bath.

The original portion of the interior is divided into five rooms, three on the ground floor and two upstairs, all measuring 16 1/2' square. Walls throughout are finished with plaster applied directly to the brick; all rooms have chairrailing, wooden mantels, and wide 10" - 12" ceiling boards painted either blue or green, depending on the original color used in each room. Mantels in the two front rooms of the ground floor are particularly fine.

Until its restoration in 1973, little had been done to alter the house other than the application of paint and deterioration of the veranda. The restoration was undertaken with great care; modern fixtures were concealed or located in rear enclosure, original colors were determined by scraping, and replacement wood was closely matched with the original. The major alterations include the conversion of the walkway on the rear of the house, the construction of a small board and batten studio to the north of the rear wing, and the reconstruction of the veranda.

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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1834 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Allen Elston

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Elston-Barta House, the oldest brick house in Talladega County, has recently been restored with a high degree of authenticity to serve as a residence open by appointment to the public. Stylistically, the house is unique in that it is built along the lines of the early Georgian houses constructed on the Carolina seaboard during the mid 18th Century and it is surprising to find the style transplanted to the Alabama frontier nearly a century later. Several similar frame houses were constructed in the Tennessee Valley area of the state during the early 1820's, but the Elston House is the only known surviving brick example in the state. Although a modest simple structure, it was quite elegant for its area and time and its construction on lands still formally held by Creek Indians attests to the confidence and determination of its builder, Allen, Elston.

During the late 1700's Allen Elston, a native of New Jersey, settled in the Pendleton District of South Carolina where he and his brother, John, developed large and valuable agricultural and mercantile interests. Attracted by the possibility of acquiring cheap lands on the Alabama frontier, Elston moved to the recently created Talladega County in 1833. Shortly after his arrival he began negotiations for 700 acres of land in the Choccolocco Valley from Sally-Kogee and Slim are Olgee, two Creek Indians. Prior to securing legal title to his land in 1835, Elston began construction of his house, possibly as early as 1833. The tract of rich bottom land that Elston purchased was located adjacent to the Talladega-Jacksonville trail and the Fife Store, a trading center long operated by a Creek Indian.

His plantation prospered and Elston became one of the influential citizens of the area, being instrumental in the establishment of the Salem Baptist Church, which he represented at the Annual Talladega County meeting in 1835. Although Elston limited himself to planting operation, his sons involved themselves in various commercial ventures as well as planting and each left an estate valued at approximately \$30,000 in the late 1850's.

Elston outlived all of his sons and at his death, in 1868, left his plantation and home to his daughter, Caroline Elston Remson, who moved to Talladega and rented the lands until the turn of the century, when they were acquired by Bishop and Whitson for "legal services." The lands and house were rented to various tenants until the mid 1900's. After that time the house stood vacant until it was purchased by the Bartas for restoration in 1972.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Armstrong, Zella, Notable Southern Families, Vol. 3, Chattanooga: privately published, 1929.

Vandiver, Jehu W. "Pioneer Talladega, Its Minutes and Memories." The Alabama Historical Quarterly, Vol. 16, No. 1, Montgomery, State Department of Archives and History, 1954.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6
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5	9	1	1	6	0
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3	7	1	2	1	4	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director and Ellen Mertins

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

DATE

April 1, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

TELEPHONE

(205) 832-6621

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery

STATE

Alabama 36130

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

Miss B. Howard

TITLE

SHPO Ala

DATE

April 1, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

10/8/76

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/29/76