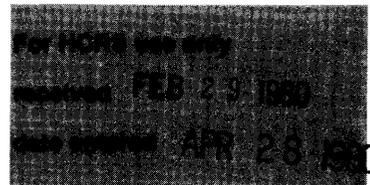


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Woodlands (The Frederick Blount Plantation)

and/or common Woodlands

**2. Location** off U.S. 84

street & number 4.2 mi. W. of Alabama River on U.S. 84; then .4 mi. N. on an unimproved public road not for publication

city, town Gosport vicinity of congressional district 1

state Alabama code 01 county Clarke code 025

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mrs. Grant Gillis

street & number Route 1, P. O. Box 106

city, town Whatley vicinity of state Alabama

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clarke County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Grove Hill state Alabama

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1970-present  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery state Alabama

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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	(minor)	

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Woodlands is located on a gentle rise in a large bend of the Alabama River. It faces southeast onto an unimproved road .4 of a mile north of U. S. 82. It is a 1½ story, braced frame house with the gabled roof, recessed porch and five bay facade typical of the Creole cottage. It measures 62' x 56' and rests on a foundation of brick piers which are extended as a solid wall across the front of the house. There they have been stuccoed, scored and painted grey. The rear shed roof porch has flanking end rooms (which appear to be original) and has been partially enclosed. The roof is modern shingle material and the four in-wall chimneys appear to have been rebuilt above the roofline. The end walls of the house have been covered with asbestos shingles.

Greek Revival influences are most apparent in the frontispiece and in the 8 fluted, cypress columns which support the heavy entablature with a defined frieze, architrave and cornice. The facade is faced with flush siding, the windows are 6/6 with large panes, floor length shutters, and paneled jib-doors beneath. The narrow balustrade with simple square balusters is original but the front steps were replaced with concrete block around 1925. The most notable feature of the house - the vaulted ceiling of the porch and its oval window-is not visible from the walk.

Interior: The plan (see attachments) has had only minor alterations. In the 1930's the north corner room (one of the flanking rooms of the rear porch) was extended several feet to allow additional space for a kitchen and the matching rear room was converted to a bath. Around the same time the porch was enclosed with glass. Walls are the original plaster, floors are of varying width heart pine, ceilings are original and most of the hardware is intact (silverplate downstairs, brass upstairs). Interior trim is severe and of the Greek Revival period with two long vertical panels in the doors, simply designed mantels, and moulded architrave trim for windows and doors. Windows of the main rooms have jib-doors or stationary panels. The plaster cornice is heavily proportioned but restrained. Attic closets of the upper floor are probably original. The house is in excellent structural condition and is extremely well-maintained by the present owners.

# 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. 1840                      **Builder/Architect**      Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Constructed as the seat of a 2,000 acre plantation, Woodlands is one of the finest of the few remaining antebellum homes in predominantly rural Clarke County. Based on the story-and-a-half Creole cottage, it is enriched with Greek Revival details and is a surprisingly sophisticated example of the type, equalled only by a few Mobile houses. Fluted Greek Doric columns, paneled jib-doors beneath the facade windows, a deep and well-proportioned entablature, silver-plated hardware and an entrance treatment probably based on a plate from Asher Benjamin's The Practical House Carpenter are evident refinements. The most noted feature, however, is a small elliptical vault in the porch ceiling which allows space for an oval bullseye window above the entrance. This sophisticated design is unique in Alabama.

\*\*\*\*\*

The house was built for Frederick S. Blount (1806–1885) and his first wife, Emily James, daughter of a wealthy Clarke County landowner. Blount was a native of Newbern, North Carolina and was educated at the Newbern Academy and the state university. He was admitted to the bar in that state in 1829 and, like many of his contemporaries, migrated to the old southwest. In 1831, he established a law office in the bustling port city of Mobile. He married Emily James in 1835 and four years later began acquiring large tracts of land in Clarke County where he moved, probably in late 1839 or early 1840. There he operated a large plantation and apparently served the county in some official capacity. Sir Charles Lyell, on his second visit to the United States (1846), visited briefly at Woodlands and noted it in his journal. In 1851, Blount sold the house to Sara Thomas and returned to Mobile where he is chiefly remembered for a daughter who married a French baron, Henri Arnous de Riviere . The house remained in the family of Sara Thomas until it was purchased by George E. Wilson in the early 1920's. It is still owned by descendants of this family.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Ball, Rev. T. H., Clarke County, Alabama and Its Surroundings from 1540 to 1877. Grove Hill, Alabama 1882, 1973 reprint.  
Lyell, Sir Charles, A Second Visit to the United States of North America. 2 vols., New York: Harper, 1849. (see continuation sheet)

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Claiborne

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	6	4	4	5	6	0	0	3	4	9	4	2	9	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

See continuation sheet.

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

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellen Mertins/ Louis Finlay (Clarke County Historical Society)

organization Alabama Historical Commission date February 28, 1980

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone (205) 832-6621

city or town Montgomery state Alabama

# 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 Miss B. Howard Jr.

title SHPO Alabama date Feb. 28, 1980

For HCERS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>J. W. Ray Luce</u>	date <u>4/28/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Carol A. Aubrie</u>	date <u>4/25/80</u>
Chief of Registration	

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 29 1980
DATE ENTERED	APR 28 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Mobile Historic Development Commission. Files on Frederick Blount, copies in file of Alabama Historical Commission.

Probate Records. Clarke County. Clarke County Courthouse, Grove Hill

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

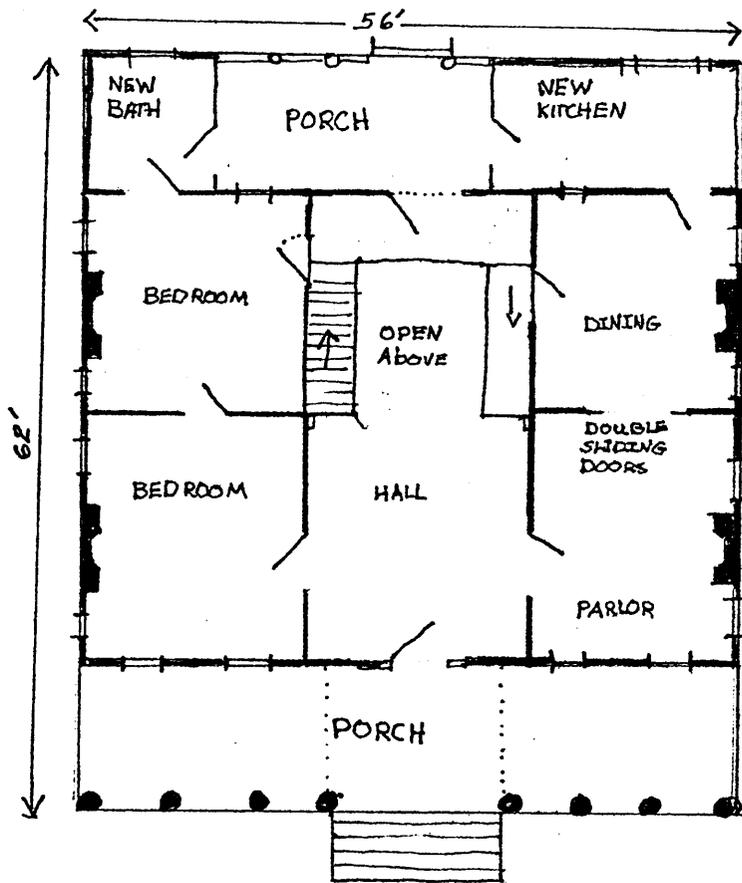
FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 29 1980
DATE ENTERED APR 28 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

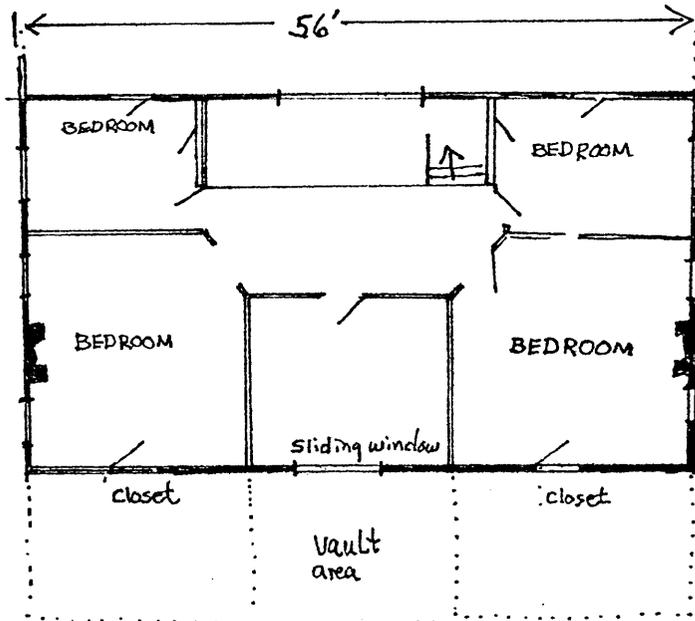
ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

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This includes the house and yard immediately surrounding it. Beginning at a point (16/445640/3494222) on an unimproved public road in the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 9, T. 7 N., R. 5 E., go in a northwesterly direction approximately 425 feet; thence in a northeasterly direction 230 feet; thence in a southeasterly direction 366 feet; thence in a southwesterly direction approximately 440 feet to the point of beginning.



1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR  
Ceiling 14'



2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR  
Ceiling 10'

"WOODLANDS"  
GOSPORT, CLARKE COUNTY

