

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 20 1977

DATE ENTERED MAR 21 1978

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 ~~Beckham's Mount Plantation~~ or the John Rutherford House

AND/OR COMMON

Grantland-Stevenson House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

550 Allen Memorial Drive

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Milledgeville *Miss* VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8th - Williamson S. Stuckey

STATE

Georgia

CODE

13

COUNTY

Baldwin

CODE

009

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Everette Hayes Barman, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

550 Allen Memorial Drive

CITY, TOWN

Milledgeville VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baldwin County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Milledgeville

STATE

Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Baldwin County by W. G. Moffat

DATE

1976

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Section

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

—EXCELLENT
GOOD
—FAIR

—DETERIORATED
—RUINS
—UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

—UNALTERED
ALTERED

CHECK ONE

—ORIGINAL SITE
MOVED DATE 1859

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Grantland-Stevenson House is a two-story, clapboard plantation Plain style House with Federal details. John Linley, architectural historian and author of the Architecture of Middle Georgia calls this style Oconee Federal. He writes that "concurrent with the indigenous architecture, a unique architecture developed in the Oconee area. Chaste and elegant, as was most Federal architecture, there were characteristics and features which were distinctly native."

"In the Milledgeville vicinity, the houses tended to have narrow two-story pedimented porches expressive of the halls behind them, the porches having two columns only, and these columns heavier than usual for the Federal styles, though lighter than the Greek Revival. A delicately simple fan was frequently outlined against the flush wood siding of the tympanum."

The Grantland-Stevenson House originally stood on a track of land called Beckham's Mount Plantation, two miles west of the present site, and was probably built for Col. John Rutherford in 1824 (Barman). On its original location there was a lower story traditionally described as a ballroom which supposedly was not moved with the house to its present site.

In 1859, under the ownership of Robert C. Smith, a Professor at Oglethorpe University, the house was moved. Recorded in the minutes of the Trustees of Oglethorpe University, 27 February 1859, is the following resolution.

"Resolved that the corporation execute to Professor Smith a title to the four lots of land on the College Avenue (Allen Memorial Drive)...and on these conditions: that Mr. Smith improve during the year said lots removing to them his buildings on Beckham's Mount..."

The house as it is situated today faces North. A one-story hip roofed porch runs the entire width of the front facade, though there is evidence in the use of two types of ballusters that this possibly is not the original porch. There may have been a central two-story portico as described by Linley. Certainly the windows are spaced to accommodate such a portico and there are parts of another fanlight existing in the basement which may have been originally placed over the center door at the second story level, although this is pure conjecture.

The front door, on the center line of the front facade, is flanked by sidelights (4 lights each) with panels beneath, and the whole surmounted by an elliptical leaded fanlight. The door itself is of the six panel type, flush on the interior side. Two windows with 9/9 lights are placed on each side of the entrance. At the second story level five windows, 9/9 lights, are spaced directly above the first story windows and front door.

The east and west facades of the house present the gable end of the roof. A quarter circle fan window ventilates the attic space at each end. A small entryway has been added to the East elevation at the rear.

On the rear facade a porch, probably not the original, runs the entire width of the house. The ends of this have been enclosed for a bath and pantry. In the 1930's a large central addition was put over the shed portion of the house at the second story level. There is a kitchen addition, extending southward off the western portion of the porch.

(Continued)

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The front door (North elevation) opens into a central hall divided into two parts by a wall behind the stair. The two front rooms open into the front part of the hall, and the two shed rooms open into the rear part of the hall.

The stair begins on the west wall of the hall and approaches the second floor by a quarter turn with intermediate landing. The spindles are square in profile. An enclosed stair to the basement is entered from this room through a door beneath the stair to the second floor. The basement walls are constructed of brick.

There is no original plaster remaining in the house, having been replaced by wall board. The front door is enframed by a wide, deeply carved moulding, as are the doors from the hall to the front rooms. The stringers of the stair are carved with a delicate "scroll and C" shaped design.

The interior trim varies from room to room. In the front room downstairs and in the shed rooms it is a convex reeded moulding which is terminated by corner blocks with bulls eyes at the top, and plain base blocks. The windows in these rooms have a panel beneath, the transition between windowsill and panel accomplished by a receding, stepped moulding.

The fireplace in the northeast front room is on the south interior wall. The rectangular opening is enframed by a horizontal jamb with center block and rectangular end blocks. Carved sunbursts ornament all three of these blocks. The end blocks terminate in a flared moulding. Doric columns support the horizontal jamb. The end of the mantel shelf and a strip around the opening of the fireplace are ornamented with a type of fretwork carving.

The mantel in the north west room, front, is also located on the south interior wall and is similar to that in the Northeast room except that the end blocks are carved with a pineapple motif, and the center block has a pair of hexagonal planar figures. The mantel shelf curves outward at its center point.

The floors throughout the house are pine. The ceilings were lowered in the 1960's so that no determination could be made of the original cornices or ceiling treatment.

In the rear part of the hall the trim is like that in the front hall. The rear door is similar to the front door without a fanlight. There is a closet addition in this hall.

The windows in the shed rooms have 6/9 lights. The mantels have sidejambes with a deeply carved moulding, a variation of the hall moulding.

The upstairs hall trim is like that in the front hall. The two upper front rooms are identical with wainscoting similar to the panels under the downstairs windows. The trim is reeded. The mantels are pine, a horizontal jamb supported by two rectangular side jambes. Both rooms have closets on the chimney wall (South interior) which appear original. The windows have 9/9 lights.

The added room was not inspected. It is entered from the upstairs hall at the stair landing.

In June of 1975 Everette Barman acquired the Grantland-Stevenson House and after extensive research has begun a restoration program.

Outbuildings: One room wooden structure, 12'x9', 19th Century. Present use-Garden House Root cellar and well (date?)

10

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 1824 BUILDER/ARCHITECT attributed to Daniel Pratt

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(The following information is taken from the research of Everette Hayes Barman, present owner of the Grantland-Stevenson House.)

"John Linley (Architecture of Middle Georgia, the Oconee Area, 1972) treats a group of houses which he describes as exhibiting a 'unique and charming fusion of the South and New England, of traditional and indigenous architecture, combined with the Federal style'. This group is referred to as Oconee Federal. Its (Grantland-Stevenson) fine entry way and interior woodwork (i.e. carvings on stairway, trim around windows and doorways, wainscoting, ornate mantels, etc.) make it one of the outstanding structures of the Oconee Federal group. It is thought that Daniel Pratt had a significant influence on Middle Georgia Architecture designing and building several of these structures. Pratt was very likely responsible for the design and construction of Rutherford Hall*. Thus, the home is doubly significant because of its design, Oconee Federal, and Architect, Daniel Pratt. In addition, Rutherford Hall is one of the few remaining 19th Century structures in Midway, an early influential academic community, the original site of Oglethorpe University." (Quoted from structural and site survey form prepared by Barman)

* = the name the Barmans have given the house since they acquired it.

It is thought that the Grantland-Stevenson House was constructed on Beckham's Mount in 1824 for Col. John Rutherford. Daniel Pratt is attributed as being the architect-builder. Col. Rutherford resided on his plantation until his death in 1833. It was purchased in 1853 by Robert C. Smith who was responsible for moving the house from its original site. Based on Oglethorpe University records this move occurred in 1859. Smith was a planter, minister, and Professor at Oglethorpe University.

The attribution to Pratt as architect of the house comes from a statement made by one Mac A. Smith while eulogizing Pratt at the time of his death. This statement is related in a book by S. F. Tarrant entitled Hon. Daniel Pratt: A Biography, published in 1904. The statement:

"In 1821, Mr. Pratt removed from Savannah (where he first located after coming south) and took up his abode at Milledgeville, Georgia, in and around which latter city he followed the business of house-building... While the deceased resided at Milledgeville, he erected a dwelling-house for a citizen living a short distance in the Country, in which it was my fortune to board during a part of my collegiate career. At the time, however, I was accustomed to taking meals beneath its roof, it did not stand where it was originally located by Mr. Pratt; but my host, the gentleman who superintended its removal, informed me that the workmen who were engaged in tearing down and displacing its various timbers frequently remarked the manifest care and honesty displayed by the original builder in its construction and in fastening together its different parts."

(Continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barman, Everette Hayes, Structural and Site Survey Form prepared 1976

Barman, Everette Hayes, Unpublished manuscript on the history of the Grantland-Stevenson House prepared for Georgia College, 1975 or 1976 (Title page missing from copy used to prepare Register form)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	2 9 0 6 4 0	3 6 5 9 4 4 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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 Dr. Elizabeth A. Lyon
Beth Lattimore Reiter, Historic Preservation Planner, Savannah, Georgia

ORGANIZATION	DATE
<u>Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources</u>	<u>December, 1976</u>
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
<u>270 Washington Street, S.W., Room 701</u>	<u>404-656-2840</u>
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
<u>Atlanta</u>	<u>Georgia</u>

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 Elizabeth A. Lyon
 TITLE Acting Chief, Historic Preservation Section DATE Sept. 15, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION W. J. [Signature] DATE 3-21-78
 ATTEST: Lawrence H. Cole KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 3-10-78
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Col. John Rutherford "was a veteran of the Revolutionary War, serving as a major under General Nathaniel Greene. He moved to Georgia and took up a land grant in Washington County in 1786-87. At various times he was a surveyor of public lands, justice of the County Court, member of the legislature, and Elector of the President and Vice-President of the United States. One of the first Latin and Greek schools in central Georgia was opened near Sandersville under Col. Rutherford's patronage. Although not one of the earliest residents, his influence on Milledgeville may have been considerable. He was a member of a committee that either selected the site for the new capitol at Milledgeville, or was responsible for an early disposition of the town lots in Milledgeville (See Beeson, History Stories of Milledgeville and Baldwin County and Cook, A History of Baldwin County Georgia.) He commanded the troops that escorted the state treasury and papers to the then new capitol of Georgia at Milledgeville. After moving to Baldwin County, he seems to have assumed the role of a prosperous planter and respected senior citizen, with most of his apparent activities confined to social events, i.e. the Lafayette activities, and Fourth of July celebration." (Quoted from Barman, an unpublished manuscript on the history of the house, written for Georgia College architecture course)

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Grantland-Stevenson House, Milledgeville, Baldwin County
Photographer: David J. Kaminsky
Date: December, 1976
Negatives filed at: Department of Natural Resources

1. Front facade, looking south.
2. Detail of main entrance.
3. Three quarter view of side and rear facades, looking northwest.
4. Entrance way and front hall, looking north.
5. Main entrance hall, looking southwest.
6. Northwest parlor.
7. Northeast parlor, looking northeast.
8. Northeast parlor.