

0162

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

FEB 06 1989

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Greenwood  
other names/site number S. L. Green House

2. Location

street & number intersection US 431 and Alexandria Jackson Road  NA not for publication  
city, town Alexandria  vicinity  
state Alabama code AL county Calhoun code 015 zip code 36250

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
[Signature] 1-30-89  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)

[Signature] 3/9/89  
Entered in the National Register

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other wood; porch

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Greenwood (1842-1850) has a traditional extended I-house plan with a sophisticated Greek Revival portico. The core of the frame house is two stories high, one room deep with a side gable roof and exterior end chimneys. To the rear there is a one-story shed and an ell. The main elevation is dominated by a full-height pedimented entrance portico supported by two Doric and two Ionic columns.

\* \* \* \* \*

The main mass of the house is rectangular in shape and measures approximately 54 by 24 feet. The house rests on a brick foundation; there is no basement. There are two exterior end chimneys constructed in brick with stepped shoulders. The house has a mortise and tenon structural system and is covered in weatherboard. The steeply pitched end gable roof is covered with modern asphalt shingles.

On the northeast rear is a small one-story shed extension with an end chimney. Extending from the northwest rear of the house is a 33 by 24 foot ell. The ell is one story with a gabled roof. It is speculated that both were built contemporary with the main house or soon after. On the west side of the ell a kitchen wing was added in the late 19th century. The small addition has a gabled roof and a root cellar.

The main (south) elevation has three bays with the main entrance centrally located. The full-height entrance portico consists of four columns supporting a molded entablature and a pediment. The two outside columns have square fluted shafts and Doric capitols; whereas the two inside columns have smooth, round shafts with Ionic capitols. All four columns rest on plinths and brick piers level with the stoop.

The main entrance consists of double four-paneled doors surrounded by slender side lights and a large rectangular transom. All the lights are colored red. The entrance is trimmed with fluted molding with corner blocks. There is a single door on the second story that opens on to a large balcony with slender turned rails. The entire wall area beneath the portico has shiplapped siding and is flanked by two fluted engaged columns.

The portico is flanked on each floor by tri-part windows. The central portions are double hung sash windows with 9 over 9 panes on the first story and 9 over 6 panes on the second story. The slender side windows have 3 over 3 panes on the first story and 3 over 2 panes on the second story. The windows are trimmed with the same fluted molding with corner blocks. The windows on the other elevations are single double-hung sash windows with 9 over 9 panes on the first floor and 9 over 6 panes on the second floor. The windows are trimmed in the same molding.

See continuation sheet

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The house has a central hall plan with rooms to the sides. The hall features an open string staircase with slender square posts and a simple turned newel post. Below the threads is a decorative running scroll design.

The front southeast room has exceptionally grained paneled wainscoting. The room also has a fluted pilastered mantel with a paneled frieze. The mantel has been stripped. There is a circular foilated ornament in the center of the ceiling.

The rest of the house features 6 inch wide heart pine flooring and wide baseboards. All of the windows are trimmed with fluted molding with corner blocks. Many of the rooms have chair rails.

Greenwood has maintained its integrity in regard to location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The house has undergone little change since its construction and is in excellent condition. In the late 19th century a kitchen wing was added off the ell extension. In the early 1950s the porch off the east side of the ell was enclosed and a small utility room and screened porch were added on the west side. None of these additions compromise the historic integrity of the house.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
architecture

Period of Significance  
1842 - 1850

Significant Dates  
1842-1850

Cultural Affiliation  
NA

Significant Person  
NA

Architect/Builder  
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

**Criterion C: Architecture**

Greenwood (1842 - 1850) is locally significant as a fine example of a rural Alabama vernacular domestic building displaying sophisticated Greek Revival details. The house exhibits the traditional I-house form: two rooms high and one room deep with a tall and narrow profile. This folk form shows amazing architectural refinement with a sophisticated interpretation of the Greek Revival style; including the intricate portico. The introduction of popular high style details on a simple vernacular form was a common practice for plantation house construction in mid-nineteenth-century Alabama.

See continuation sheet

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings  
Survey # AL - 468
- recorded by Historic American Engineering  
Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

### Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 47

### UTM References

A 

1	6	6	0	4	0	0	0	3	7	3	7	5	7	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

1	6	6	0	4	0	0	0	3	7	3	7	1	9	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

1	6	6	0	3	2	4	0	3	7	3	7	1	7	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D 

1	6	6	0	3	2	4	0	3	7	3	7	2	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

See boundary line outlined in yellow on tax assessor's map.

See continuation sheet

### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the 47-acre lot that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Steven M. Kay/ Cultural Resources Coordinator

organization Alabama Historical Commission date August 1988

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 205 261-3184

city or town Montgomery state Alabama zip code 36130

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### HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Jacob Ross Green was born about 1810 in South Carolina, a son of Jacob and Fannie Acre Green, and moved with his family to St. Clair County, Alabama, about 1820. The elder Jacob Green patented vast acres of land in the area and later operated a steamship on the Coosa River that transported cotton to Wetumpka. Green's Ferry was chartered by an act of legislature to transmit mail across the Coosa River with Jacob Green as the bonded ferryman. The place became known as Greensport.

On 3 February 1831 Jacob Ross Green married Elizabeth Boyd, daughter of Judge Samuel Boyd, and soon began acquiring land in the newly established county of Benton which bordered St. Clair County on the east and comprised the ancient lands of the Creek Indians.

Under the Treaty of Cussets in 1832, the United States Government acquired the entire Creek holdings which included lands in northeast Alabama, and the ancient inhabitants were removed to their designated home in the west. Upon petition, land patents were issued to the white settlers who poured into the area.

The early deeds of Benton County, later renamed Calhoun County, were destroyed during the War Between the States and only those recorded after that time are now found in the county courthouse. However, in the historical manuscripts collection of the Alabama Room, Anniston-Calhoun County Public Library, a handwritten copy of a deed abstract is found in the Bessie Coleman Robinson Collection which reveals that on 25 April 1842, O. E. Burt sold to Jacob Ross Green 150 acres in the northwest quarter of Section 35 Township 14 Range 7 of Benton County, Alabama, and recorded on page 300 of Book G 10 May 1842. That deed book no longer exists but the county tract book shows that Burt acquired the land in November of 1840.

Jacob Ross Green bought and patented many acres of land in what is now called the Alexandria Valley in Calhoun County, Alabama, but it was on the tract he bought from O. E. Burt that he built his home known as Greenwood.

Jacob Ross Green was a successful farmer of some wealth. The 1844 tax assessment record of Benton County, Alabama, shows he owned 11 slaves and land valued at \$5200. In the 1850 census, his property is valued at \$10,000, which indicates that at least the original portion of Greenwood was completed by 1850. The census also names five of his children, one of whom was Samuel L. Green, the next owner of Greenwood.

A deed of gift dated 16 November 1865 from Jacob Ross Green to his son and heir, Samuel L. Green, is recorded in Deed Book A pages 83 and 84 of Calhoun County, Alabama. Four tracts of land lying in the Alexandria valley is conveyed including 38 acres lying in the northwest quarter of Section 35 Township 14 Range 7 whereon Greenwood is situated.

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Samuel LaFayette Green was born 15 November 1840 and lived in Greenwood until his death in March of 1913. He served in Company D 10th Alabama Infantry during the War Between the States, and married Nancy Elizabeth Draper on 18 February 1862. They raised eight children in Greenwood.

On 15 January 1913, Samuel L. Green (Sr.) wrote his will bequeathing his property to all his children equally, with one share to be divided between the two children of his deceased daughter Carrie. He further directed that all his just debts and funeral expenses be paid out of the estate by his executor, son S. L. Green, Jr.

It seems there were some liens on the property and in order to settle the debts and ensure that the homeplace remain in the family, 40 acres "known as the S. L. Green homestead and occupied by the said S. L. Green, Sr. at the time of his death" was deeded by the executor, and signed by all the heirs, to R. L. Meharg in May of 1914. Meharg was the husband of Nannie Lou Green Meharg, daughter of S. L. Green, Sr. That same month, Meharg and wife deeded 38 of the 40 acres back to S. L. Green, Jr. for one dollar "and other considerations."

On March 1916, S. L. Green, Jr. sold to Norris Woodruff: "That certain tract of land located in the Town of Alexandria Calhoun County, Alabama known as the S. L. Green homestead, consisting of 38 acres more or less, located in the Northwest Quarter of Section 35 Township 14 Range 7 East, it being the land and premises occupied by the said S. L. Green (Sr.) at the time of his death...."

Norris Woodruff married Caroline Elizabeth "Carrie" Green on 21 November 1892. She was born 31 May 1870, died 24 February 1898, and was the "deceased daughter Carrie" mentioned in the will of S. L. Green, Sr. They had two children, Marie, born in November of 1893, and Wallace Green Woodruff, born in September of 1895. It was approximately 18 years after the death of his wife, and three years after the death of her father, that Norris Woodruff bought Greenwood from S. L. Green, Jr., brother of Carrie and executor of their father's estate.

Norris Woodruff was born in October of 1868 and was a son of Seaborn and Sally P. Woodruff. He was from a prominent Spartanburg County, South Carolina, family for which the town of Woodruff is named. He was a merchant, cotton ginner and farmer who bought and sold vast acres of land in Alexandria Valley. Norris Woodruff married as his second wife, Patti Vaughn of Columbia, Tennessee, and had two more sons, Vaughn and Mercer. He died a widower in 1939.

On 11 August 1922, Wallace Green Woodruff, son of Norris Woodruff, married Ruth Miers of Birmingham, daughter of John Henry Miers. Soon after the death of his father, Wallace Green Woodruff bought Greenwood from his brothers and sister. N. Vaughn Woodruff and wife Velma, J. Mercer Woodruff and wife Josephine, and Marie Woodruff Hixon and husband J. F., sold to Wallace Green Woodruff on 6 November 1939: "That

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certain tract of land...known as the S. L. Green homestead consisting of 38 acres...northwest one-fourth of Section 35 Township 14 Range 7 East it being the land and premises occupied by the said S. L. Green (Sr.) at the time of his death..."

Wallace Green and Ruth Woodruff had five children and for nearly 23 years lived at Greenwood. At his death in 1963, Wallace Green Woodruff's will left all his property to his wife. On 13 March 1964, Ruth Woodruff, widow, deeded to her son, Wallace Green Woodruff, Jr. and wife Virginia the "38 acres...known as the S. L. Green homestead..." In item 3 of her will dated 20 December 1963, recorded 2 May 1966, Ruth Meirs Woodruff again designated that her son Wallace G. Green, Jr. was to receive the homeplace as part of his inheritance.

Wallace G. Woodruff, Jr. married Virginia Parks of Sylacauga, Alabama, daughter of Bowden and Irene Parks, in December of 1948. They have five children who represent the sixth generation of lineal descent of the builder of Greenwood. They are Nan Elizabeth, Wallace Green Woodruff III, Angela Marie, George Parks and Samuel Bowden Woodruff. Though they are now grown and live away from home, the old house reverberates with happiness when they all return.



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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Benton County, Alabama Tract Book page 104, Calhoun County Courthouse

Bessie Coleman Robinson Collection, Alabama Room, Anniston-Calhoun County Public Library

History of St. Clair County, Alabama. Mattie Lou Teague Crow; 1973.

Marriage of Jacob Ross Green and Elizabeth Boyd, St. Clair County, Alabama, Book 1 Page 62

1844 Tax Assessment Record, Benton County, Alabama

Marriage of S. L. Green and Nancy Draper, Calhoun County, Alabama, Book II Page 153

Federal Census Records of Benton and Calhoun County, Alabama, 1840-1910

Deed Book A Pages 83 and 84, Jacob Ross Green to Samuel L. Green 16 November 1865, Calhoun County, Alabama

Will of S. L. Green, Book A Pages 558-560 dated 15 January 1913, Recorded 16 April 1913, Calhoun County, Alabama

Deed Book 175 Page 88, S. L. Green, Jr. to R. L. Meharg 13 July 1914, Calhoun County, Alabama

Deed Book 175 Pages 91 and 92, R. L. Meharg and wife Nannie Lou to S. L. Green, Jr. dated 13 July 1914, Calhoun County, Alabama

Deed Book 326 Pages 169 and 170, S. L. Green, Jr. to Norris Woodruff dated 2 March 1916, recorded 25 July 1929, Calhoun County, Alabama

Marriage of Norris Woodruff and Caroline Elizabeth Green, Book D Page 341, Calhoun County, Alabama

Deed Book 413 Page 251, Woodruff et al to Wallace Green Woodruff dated 6 November 1939, recorded 8 December 1939, Calhoun County, Alabama

Deed Book 1161 Page 141, Ruth Woodruff, widow, to Wallace Green Woodruff, Jr. and wife Virginia, dated 13 March 1964, recorded same, Calhoun County, Alabama

Will of Ruth Woodruff, Book N Page 804 dated 20 December 1963, recorded 2 May 1966, Calhoun County, Alabama

Woodruff Family Bible

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UTMs continued

E. 16/603520/3737210

F. 16/603520/3737470

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Information in items 1-5 is the same for all photographs listed.

- 1) Greenwood
- 2) Alexandria, Calhoun County, Alabama
- 3) Wallace G. Woodruff, Jr.
- 4) December 1988
- 5) Alabama Historical Commission

No. 1

- 6) main facade, camera facing north

No. 2

- 6) side elevation, camera facing west

No. 3

- 6) side elevation and rear addition, camera facing east

No. 4

- 6) detail of door, front SE, 1st floor bedroom

No. 5

- 6) detail of wainscoting, front SE, 1st floor bedroom

No. 6

- 6) detail of mantel, front SE, 1st floor bedroom

No. 7

- 6) detail of plaster ceiling ornament, front SE, 1st floor bedroom

No. 8

- 6) detail of stairway, front hall