

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received APR 25 1985
date entered MAY 23 1985

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

1. Name

historic Stewart-Blanton House

and/or common Blanton Place

2. Location

street & number ^{AL 86} Route 2 (5 miles west of Carrollton on Hwy. 86) NA not for publication

city, town Carrollton NA vicinity of congressional district 4

state Alabama code 01 county Pickens code 107

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 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
	<u>NA</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Elizabeth Stewart

street & number Route 2, Box 42

city, town Carrollton NA vicinity of state Alabama 35447

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pickens County Probate Building

street & number Court Square

city, town Carrollton state Alabama 35447

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

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Stewart-Blanton House is a two-story, frame "country" Greek Revival structure, which notably illustrates the combination of academic architecture with vernacular forms. Although local tradition ascribes to the house a c. 1834 construction date, its stylistic details suggest the probability that the Stewart-Blanton House may have been built as late as 1850.

The front elevation of the house displays a classical treatment and is highlighted by a central, pedimented, four-columned portico with simple Greek Revival details. The second-story balcony is enclosed by a simple wood balustrade, which is repeated below, between each pair of columns and corresponding pilasters. The doorways on each level of the portico feature rectangular transoms and sidelights surrounding a two-panel wood door. The symmetrically spaced 6/6 sash windows are set into simple molded frames, and run in ranges of two's. The massive brick chimneys at each end of the main block are original except for the rebuilt upper portion of the west chimney.

The gabled main roof is abutted at the rear by a shed roof that extends the full width of the house. Forming almost a salt-box across the rear, this roof covers a 1½-story lean-to wing which connects the main house to the 1908 kitchen ell. This kitchen wing also contains two closets and a bath, and has a shed porch roughly facing west. A single one-story brick chimney services the west end room of the lean-to.

The interior of the house has a 10 ft. center hall plan with 18 x 18 ft. sq. rooms to each side. The mantels and other interior woodwork adhere to the simplicity of the exterior. Running water was added in 1925, and butane heaters were installed in 1940. A two-car frame garage is situated just west of the house, within close proximity.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c. 1840-50 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criterion C - Architecture

The Stewart-Blanton House is a good example of a vernacular Greek Revival style rural residence. Moreover, it is the only building that survives from a large, thriving 19th century planter community near Big Creek River. While the facade of the house has been given an academic treatment through the addition of a pedimented Greek Revival portico, the profile, a traditional "I" form in combination with a shed-roofed lean-to, indicates its strong ties to regional domestic traditions. Thus the house well exemplifies the integration of elements drawn from both academic architecture and vernacular forms.

Criterion B - Religion; Politics and Government

The Stewart-Blanton House is significant for its associations with Rev. Charles Stewart (1794-1856), an early religious and political leader of Pickens County. Serving as founding pastor for two of the county's earliest Baptist churches (Enon Baptist, 1823-29, and Big Creek Baptist, 1829-56), Stewart built a notable political career beginning in 1830, when he was elected Pickens County Tax Collector, and ending in 1836 when he completed his term as a State Representative. Stewart built this house c. 1840-50 in sight of Big Creek Baptist Church, which was considered the heart of this community, and resided there until his death.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Clanahan, J. F. Early History of Pickens County

Smith, Nelson F. History of Pickens County (from its first settlement in 1817 to 1856)

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Reform SW

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	3	9	2	0	1	0	1	8	3	6	8	1	0	1	0	4
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 NA code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shirley D. Qualls, Historic Resource Coordinator

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date February 15, 1985

street & number 725 Monroe Street

telephone 205 261-3184

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4-2-85

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 5-23-85


Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Stewart-Blanton House

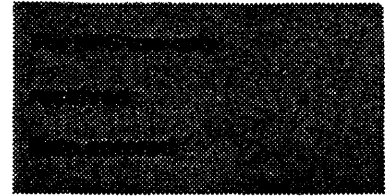
The Stewart-Blanton House is the only building that survives Pickens County Big Creek (River) Community. During the 19th century this community was a very large and well-known settlement located halfway between Carrollton and Pickensville, Alabama. The center of this community became the Big Creek Baptist Church where "the most numerous, respectable and intelligent congregations, of that or any other persuasion in this county" assembled. The pastor of this church, Rev. Charles Stewart, commonly known as Parson Stewart, is credited with having a great influence on this community.

The earliest account of activity around Big Creek dates 1819-20 when Henry Anderson built the county's first mill, a tub mill. During this period, Pickens County embarked upon a period of rapid settlement and growth. Rev. Charles Stewart (1794-1856), a native of Chatham County, North Carolina, came to Perry County, Alabama in 1818 from Tennessee. He remained in Perry County for three years and then moved to Pickens County in 1821. In 1823, Stewart became the founding pastor of the Enon Baptist Church, the county's first Baptist church. Later in 1829, Stewart left Enon Baptist to organize Big Creek Baptist. The church was built as the center of the Big Creek Community. Building a large and well-respected congregation, Stewart became a notable local figure. A close friend and colleague of Lincoln Clark (1800-1886) who became State Legislator in 1834 and State Attorney General in 1838, Stewart entered the political arena in 1830 when he was elected county tax collector. He served in this capacity until 1832 and again 1834. In 1835 Stewart ran on the Andrew Jackson Democratic ticket for State House of Representatives. He served in the House through the year 1836. Stewart built this house in the c. 1840's in sight of Big Creek Baptist Church and resided there until his death in 1851.

After Rev. Stewart's death in 1851, the William Spraggins family bought the house and surrounding land. Spraggins succeeded Stewart as pastor of Big Creek Baptist Church; however, the Spraggins lost the property in a mortgage foreclosure and Col. J. N. Blanton, of Tennessee, bought the property. Blanton served in the War Between the States and raised his family in this house. After the death of his wife c. 1898, Blanton sold the property to J. E. Stewart and moved to Columbus, Mississippi to live with his daughter. Stewart was the father-in-law of Mrs. Elizabeth Stewart who presently resides in the house. The house has remained in continuous occupancy and ownership of the Stewart family for more than 85 years.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

The property, which includes the house and its fenced yard, is marked in red on the attached map and is more specifically detailed as follows:

Beginning at the southwest intersection of an Unnamed Road and the west side of Hwy. 86, and thence southwesterly 1550 feet to a fence, which is parallel to the Unnamed Road, this being the Point of True Beginning,

Thence Northwesterly a distance of approximately 147 feet along the fence,

Thence Southwesterly a distance of approximately 108 feet along a fence which is parallel to the centerline of Hwy. 86 and which lies approximately 24 feet from the rear of the house,

Thence Southeasterly a distance of approximately 147 feet along a fence situated south of the house and parallel to the Unnamed Road,

Thence Northeasterly a distance of approximately 108 feet to the Point of True Beginning along a line that lies approximately 110 feet from the front portico of the house and is parallel to the centerline of Hwy. 86. This includes the house (48' x 67') and the fenced yard, encompasses less than one acre and lies in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{2}$ of the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of T-21S, R-16W, Section 1 of the Reform SW Quadrangle.

COUNTY OF PICKENS

T. 20 S

PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE

T. 21 S

STATE OF ALABAMA

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

AD VALOREM TAX DIVISION

PREPARED BY



ARBOLETTA, ALABAMA

24 Ac

4
208 Ac(c)

5
21 Ac(c)

8

6
32 Ac(c)

PINE GROVE
BAPTIST CHURCH
& CEMETERY

295s
295s
12
295s
295s

11
52 Ac(c)

23
73 Ac(c)

6
Ac(c)

18
12 Ac(c)

21
13 Ac(c)

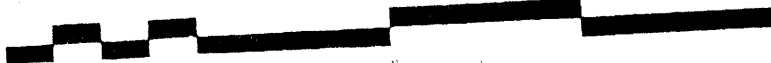
22
25 Ac(c)

Stewart-Blanton House
Pickens County, Alabama

T-21S R-16W Section 1
(NW 1/4 of SE 1/2 of E 1/2
facing Highway 86)

19 20.01 20

175s 90s 95s 95s 480s
6 5 4 3
560s 360s 550s



SCALE: 1" = 400'

DATE OF MAP: OCT 1975 DATE OF PHOTOGRAPHY: FEB 1974

