

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED FEB 22 1977
DATE ENTERED AUG 2 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 Amis-Elder House

AND/OR COMMON Courtney B. Elder Place

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *W of Crawford on*
Elder Road, ~~10th Congressional District~~

CITY, TOWN Vicinity of Crawford VICINITY OF 10th - Robert G. Stephens, Jr. *Douglas Barnard*
STATE Georgia CODE 13 COUNTY Oglethorpe CODE 221

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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 |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Dr. Forest Kellogg

STREET & NUMBER 149 Gran Ellen Drive

CITY, TOWN Athens VICINITY OF STATE Georgia 30601

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Oglethorpe County Courthouse
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Lexington STATE Georgia 30648

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Oglethorpe County Inventory

DATE 1975 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN 270 Washington St., S.W., Atlanta STATE Georgia 30334

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Amis-Elder House, ca. 1805, is an early small two-story plain style frame house with one-story rear wing; two rooms up and three down. It has the exterior end chimneys characteristic of this Southern style.

Plan: The house faces north. The front door is on center, flanked by one window on either side with three evenly spaced windows above. The small door, which has neither transom nor side lights, opens directly from the veranda into the east room, the parlor. Opposite the front door a door leads to the back porch and beside it are three open steps of the winding stair, enclosed from the fourth step up. Another door opens to the west room, the first bedroom. The plan achieves the esthetic advantage of a centered front door while providing extra space for the parlor by placing off-center the partition between parlor and bedroom, and, therefore, the summer beam. The parlor is 19'2" long by 17'3" wide (the depth of the house), while the bedroom is 11'10" by 17'3". Under the stair is the usual cupboard. The bedroom has an outside door (original but with glass inserted) beside the chimney and another door to the rear room.

Ceilings are 11' downstairs, 9' upstairs. The stairs led directly into the west bedroom, L-shaped since it included the space at the head of the stairs. An unusual feature is the windowed closet opening off this space, built parallel to the long leg of the stairs. Some years ago the head of the stairs was partitioned off from the west bedroom.

The rear wing has a pitched roof and consists of one large room, with a porch along its east side. (Recently a bathroom was installed at one end of this porch.) The rear room is original, as shown by sills, nails, dado, doors. It was without doubt originally the dining room, but was radically altered long ago, probably in the 1880's or 90's, and made into a kitchen as well. (The original detached kitchen would have been in the side or back yard, beyond the smokehouse which stood until two years ago.) The fireplace, chimney and rear wall were removed, a stove and small stove chimney substituted, and the rear wall rebuilt. It has only wire nails. A break in the dado shows the former location of the fireplace.

In addition to windows front and back, there were at first windows on either side of the parlor fireplace, which were boarded up years ago when wallpaper was first applied. There are end windows in each bedroom.

Exterior: Windows have 9 lights over 9. Windowsills are hewn and very thick, but window and door moldings are quite elaborate. The original square-edged weatherboarding survives on much of the house, with wrought nails and early cut nails with wrought heads. The present veranda is at least the third, but the original was also a one-story full-width veranda, as shown by the smooth lower facade of shiplapped 10" boards, used also on the inner wall of the back porch. Such weatherboarding, preferred for porches, could only be used on protected walls. The hollow, heavy veranda pillars are mid-19th century, but the interesting square pillars on the back porch, with flared caps, are probably original and may be identical to the first front pillars. The house stands on granite and brick piers two to three feet off the ground, which slopes slightly. The roof is flush with the wall at the ends, and once would have been finished with barge boards. The house once had blinds.

The chimneys are a handsome feature, made of good-quality brick with lime mortar. They rest on granite flagstones, are stepped, laid in American bond and have tumbled shoulders.

Interior: All rooms are walled with wide pine boards laid horizontally and ceiled with pine. All have dados, which downstairs are made of a single pine plank about

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

(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| STATE Georgia | |
| COUNTY Oglethorpe | |
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| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | AUG 2 1978 |

(Number all entries)

Description - Interior, continued:

20" wide running the length of a wall, surmounting a heavy baseboard and capped by a wide chair rail, height 32". Floors are the original pine. Downstairs doors are six-paneled in a standard Georgian pattern, with planed edges on panels and stiles. While the bedroom mantels are well proportioned but fairly simple, the parlor mantel is a handsome, academic Federal mantel. The fireplaces are arched. The doors have butt hinges except for the closet's HL hinges.

A fine feature is the early wood-grain painting which survives on most doors and the dados in the parlor and one bedroom. The painting divides the dado into pseudo panels; each "panel" has a golden field with an exotic grain (imitating flame mahogany?), border and pseudo pilasters in rich brown; the corners are filled with little quarter rounds. On the brown doors, fine white lines outline the panels, again with quarter rounds, and a grain is painted in black.



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

ca. 1805

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Amis-Elder House is primarily architectural: it is a fine, now-rare example of an early plain-style house, relatively little changed although continuously occupied for 170 years. The plain-style dwelling, one and a half or two stories high (the latter often called plantation plain), almost always with exterior end chimneys and usually of frame construction, was of course a basic type of Southern architecture. The style followed the migrations from the older colonies to Georgia and Alabama and across the Appalachians. However, by now Georgia examples from earlier than the 1820's are very rare, and some which survive are deteriorated or spoiled by remodeling or wrong-headed restoration. Hence the value of the Amis-Elder house.

Like all dwellings, the house also reflects the life style of its owners, who before the war were small planters, and after, could be called middle-class farmers. Amis, who was from North Carolina, not only acquired several thousand acres, but also, like his son, had the reputation of being a clever mechanic. (Thomas Amis, Jr. in 1867 bought a place on Long Creek and built Amis' Mill, which ran until the 1920's.)

In 1797 Joseph Crockett bought for \$12.25 in back taxes 150 acres of John Peek's grant of 287½ acres on Big Creek and the next year bought the rest for 60 pounds. The acreage was that of a standard Revolutionary bounty grant! John Peek lived in Columbia County and had not improved his land, as shown by the price (Oglethorpe Co. deed books B, 165; C, 43). In 1810 Crockett sold to Thomas Amis the 152 (150) acres sold in 1797 "including the plantation whereon the said Amis now lives" for \$1,000, and in 1812 sold Amis the remaining 135 acres (for \$500, which probably shows a log cabin; G, 34; H, 137.) It seems that Crockett had moved elsewhere, rented the farm to Amis, and then sold it to him. The great price jump from almost nothing to \$1,000, as well as the wording of the deed, shows that the land had acquired a dwelling, kitchen, etc. between 1797 and 1810. The jump is too great for the value then placed on log houses, but is consistent with the value given frame dwellings plus other improvements. Since all the architectural evidence places the house very early in the 19th century, the writer concludes that this is the house built between 1797 and 1810, hence a date of ca. 1805.

The very earliest dwellings on the frontier were almost always log, and the earliest frame houses were correspondingly simple. Most log and early frame houses were built by the settler or by the settler and his slaves. However, already in the second decade of settlement in the Piedmont, trained artisans were traveling through, offering their services -- masons, carpenter joiners, furniture makers. Governor Gilmer in his First Settlers of Upper Georgia (1855) writes of such a team of carpenters building Gov. Mathews's frame house in Oglethorpe County, in the mid-1790's, replacing a log cabin of 1784. Certainly the hand of trained craftsmen is evident in the Amis-Elder House -- that of an artisan

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rodgers, Ava D., The Housing of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, 1790-1860
(Tallahassee, Florida State University Press, 1971), p. 24.

Smith, Mrs. Florrie Carter, History of Oglethorpe County, Georgia
(Washington, Georgia, Wilkes Publishing Company, 1970) 188-189;
Supplement (1972) p. 188.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA 3

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 125.98 acres

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|---------|----------|-------|---------|---------|----------|--|
| 410 | | 520 | | 289-860 | | 730 | |
| D E-17 | | 290:0.20 | | 374 | | 3-6-7-5 | |
| E A | 1,7 | 2,8,9 | 6,0,0 | 3,7 | 4,3 | 7,7,5 | |
| AB | 1,7 | 2,8,9 | 8,9,0 | 3,7 | 4,4 | 5,2,0 | |
| ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | |
| B C | 1,7 | 2,9,0 | 6,0,0 | 3,7 | 4,4 | 0,5,0 | |
| CD | 1,7 | 2,9,0 | 5,4,0 | 3,7 | 4,3 | 9,0,0 | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

In the 227th District, Georgia Militia. From sale of 21 July 1976 to Forest E. Kellogg (Deed book 4V 199): "...bounded generally on the North by lands of James Bullock and a county road; East by lands of Brooks; South by lands of Champion Paper Company; and West by center line of Big Creek."

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, Manager, Survey & Planning Unit
(Mrs.) Patricia Irvin Cooper, researcher

ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources DATE July, 1976
STREET & NUMBER 270 Washington St., S.W. TELEPHONE (404) 656-2840
CITY OR TOWN Atlanta STATE Georgia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____ STATE _____ LOCAL X

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 [Signature] DATE 2-9-77

TITLE Chief, Historic Preservation Section DAVID M. SHERMAN DATE

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER | |
| DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION | DATE <u>8-2-78</u> |
| ATTEST <u>[Signature]</u> | DATE <u>2-3-20</u> |
| KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER | |

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Significance, continued

bricklayer and that of a joiner, whose skill, planes and pattern book are revealed in the adroit first-floor plan, moldings, doors and mantels.

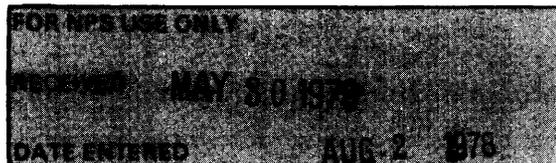
Wood-grain painting, as in the dadoes and doors of this house, is known to be early, but its exact decades are so far unknown. The writer has not seen such painting in houses later than the 1820's. (Though Greek Revival suppressed the dado, some painting did continue through mid-century, such as marbling on baseboards.) The artist, arriving with his oil, pigments and feathers, may have worked as soon as the house was finished, or ten or twenty years later.

The subsequent chain of ownership, after Crockett and Thomas Amis, is quickly told. (It is incorrect in Rogers's The Housing of Oglethorpe County.) Thomas Amis, Jr., as administrator of his father's estate, in 1867 sold to S. R. Aycock for \$1,500 all the Big Creek tract. By Aycock's will, the Amis tract passed in 1884 to his daughter, Mrs. Martha Elder, for her natural life, then to be divided among her children (V,681; PP 81). Mrs. Elder died in 1930 and her son, Courtney B. Elder, inheriting a one-ninth share, bought out his siblings and lived on the farm until his death in January, 1975. (Deed books ZZ 14, 152, 570 etc.) In July, 1976 the farm was bought by Dr. Forest Kellogg of Athens, who is restoring the house.



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AMENDMENT
AMIS-ELDER HOUSE, OGLETHORPE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Acreage: Approximately 3 acres

UTM Reference: A-17/290340/3744080

Quadrangle Name: Barnett Shoals

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at a point on the road north of the house and running east approximately 200 feet to the existing boundary of the property; thence south approximately 325 feet to the edge of a gully; thence west approximately 450 feet to the edge of the woods; thence north approximately 325 feet to the road; thence east approximately 250 feet to the point of beginning.

Prepared By:

Ms. Martha Norwood
Historic Preservation Section
Department of Natural Resources
270 Washington Street, S. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
(404) 656-2840

May 18, 1978



Elizabeth A. Lyon
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

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Amis-Elder House

The nomination of 125.98 acres is justified on the grounds that this land was part of the original farm acquired in 1810. The land is presently not actively farmed, and may be used for timber farming in the near future.

Since the nomination was submitted, the house has been extensively restored, and according to Patricia Cooper who prepared the nomination, it is now in good condition.

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Amis-Elder House, Oglethorpe County

Photographs by: David J. Kaminsky

Date: August, 1976

Negatives filed at: Department of Natural Resources

1. Front facade, looking south.
2. Three quarter view, looking northeast.
3. Parlor Mantel
4. West room or first bedroom, looking into the kitchen.
5. Main Door