

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED 11 SEP 1979 NOV 29 1979
DATE ENTERED

**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 Lebanon Plantation

AND/OR COMMON
Lebanon Plantation

LOCATION

SW of Savannah

STREET & NUMBER 1-1/4 miles east of U.S. Highway 17 at a point 2-1/4 miles south
of the intersection of U.S. Highway 17 and Georgia Highway 307.
—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Savannah VICINITY OF First - Rep. Bo Ginn
STATE Georgia CODE 13 COUNTY Chatham CODE 051

CLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mary Lane Morrison

STREET & NUMBER 26 East Gaston Street

CITY, TOWN Savannah VICINITY OF STATE Georgia 31401

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Chatham County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Savannah STATE Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic Structures Field Survey: Chatham County, Georgia

DATE 1975 —FEDERAL STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historic Preservation Section; Department of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN Atlanta STATE Georgia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The plantation house at Lebanon is illustrative of several different historical periods and architectural styles. The original house, which forms the core of the present structure, was probably rebuilt after the Civil War from the original plan and possibly remnants of the early-nineteenth-century building.

A raised Plantation Plain, this original dwelling has a two-story, two-room center-hall plan with two shed rooms in the rear. The staircase, located in the hall, is dog-leg variation with bare-wood treads and white-painted risers, a stained-wood handrail and simple, four-sided, convex newel post. The entrance has a recent, glass-paned door with a plain, rectangular transom. The interior walls are plastered and wallpapered in some rooms. The mantelpiece in the dining room is almost identical to, although slightly larger than, the one in the east "shed" room, now an extension of the parlor. Here, two engaged tuscan columns support vertical end blocks on the frieze which are separated from the plain, recessed center block by two identical strips of hollow moulding. The mantelpiece in the parlor is more simple in design and features fluted pilasters that support a narrow, unadorned frieze and shelf.

The brick foundation of the house was enclosed in the early twentieth century to form a two-room basement. The pegged beams of the first floor are visible here, along with the arched brick foundation which supports the fireplace. The house has a hip roof and the three chimneys which serve it are enclosed.

Additions began being made to the house in 1919 when the two-story veranda was built onto the front of the house and extended around the sides soon thereafter. Now partially screened, this double veranda features paired tuscan columns. At about this same time, a porte-cochere, detailed similarly to the veranda, was erected over the driveway in front of the front doorway. A two-story wing was added to the north side of the house, c. 1927, to provide additional living space. Although connected by the veranda, it is in effect a separate house.

The outbuildings are all twentieth-century additions and include a caretaker's house, a servants' house (occupied) and a large, high-vaulted "family room," separate from the house, which was built in the 1920s. The house is situated near the river, surrounded by expansive lawns, and is reached by a 1-1/4-mile drive, paved with shell.

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While this nomination was undergoing final review, a tornado touched-down at Lebanon Plantation on April 9, 1979, and destroyed the upper story of the veranda as well as part of the roof. The owner has not yet finalized plans concerning repairs, although she tends to favor leaving the remaining one story veranda. Due to the fact that repairs are not completed, the photographs reflect the house as it was before the tornado. The loss of the upper level of the veranda does not seriously detract from the overall integrity of the structure.

6 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1873; 1919-1920s

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lebanon Plantation is significant in agricultural, architectural and local history, as well as in historical archaeology. Agriculturally it is significant as a continuously operating plantation/farm complex for over 220 years and as the site of the development of the Savannah Satsuma orange; architecturally for reflecting the organic growth of a plantation "Big House" adapted to coastal living; and in local history not only as a plantation known to have been operational since the 1750's, but also as the site of a Federal troop headquarters during the Civil War, reflecting after the war in its own destruction and rebirth the South's revival.

The land which comprises the core of Lebanon is a 500-acre tract which was granted to James Deveaux in 1756 and allegedly named for the many cedar trees on the property. An additional 500 acres were granted to Phillip Delegal in 1758 and eventually became a part of the plantation. Both tracts changed hands several times before 1802 when Joseph Habersham purchased it from an absentee owner. When he sold it two years later to George W. Anderson, a considerable plantation was located on it since the deed refers to the houses, outbuildings, grounds and waterways which were a part of the transaction.

The waters of the Little Ogeechee River provided irrigation for rice fields and a number of other crops were planted on the uplands. When the Union Army invaded the area in December of 1864, Brigadier General Kilpatrick wrote to General Sherman: "I find over here many rich plantations and can subsist my command for a month." (Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Vol. XLIV, p. 698) Sherman, however, in his report on the capture of Savannah, pointed out the hazards of the countryside to his army: "These streams were singularly favorable to the enemy as a cover, being very marshy and bordered by rice fields which were flooded either by the tide water or by inland ponds, the gates to which were controlled and covered by his heavy artillery." (Ibid., pp. 9, 10) At the time of the occupation of southern Chatham County, Major George W. Anderson was in command of less than 300 men defending Fort McAllister, which fell on the 13th of December. Union correspondence frequently mentions "Anderson's Plantation," which became the headquarters for the Federal Fifteenth Army Corps.

After the occupation, the house at Lebanon was at least partially destroyed. This was only the beginning of difficulties for Anderson, however, for the property, which had been mortgaged in 1863, faced foreclosure in 1868. The estate was duly sold by the sheriff to Francis A. Parland, from whom Major Anderson recovered it in 1871.

[continued]

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Personal inspection, Victoria Reeves Gunn, August 25, 1976.
 Colonial Grant Books
 Chatham County Wills, Deed Books
The War of the Rebellion, Series I, Vol. XLIV (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1893).
 [continued]

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 76 acres **UTM NOT VERIFIED**
 QUADRANGLE NAME Garden City QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	48,008,0	3,541,30,0	B	1,7	48,029,0	3,540,79,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,7	48,000,0	3,540,42,0	D	1,7	47,958,0	3,540,86,0
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Part of the land as recorded in Chatham County, Georgia Superior Court deeds, and Map Book 1, p. 82, narrowed down to the following dimensions: [continued]

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: Elizabeth A. Lyon, Consultant
 Victoria Reeves Gunn, Historical Consultant
 Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian

ORGANIZATION: Historic Preservation Section; Department of Natural Resources
 DATE: August 1979

STREET & NUMBER: 270 Washington Street, S.W.
 TELEPHONE: (404)656-2840

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta
 STATE: Georgia 30334

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 P. Lyon*
 TITLE: Elizabeth A. Lyon, Acting State Historic Preservation Officer
 DATE: 9/4/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Carol O. Skell
 DATE: 11-29-79
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Mal A. Dubois*
 DATE: 11/28/79
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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The extent of damage to the original house is not known and whether the house was totally rebuilt or merely repaired and restored is not clear.

The Savannah [Georgia] Morning News for April 23, 1873, reported that "the old family mansion at Lebanon has been rebuilt," and pointed out that "the dwelling houses, negro quarters, farm buildings, fencing &c. were destroyed by General Kilpatrick of the Federal army, during the investment of Savannah and the place was seemingly a hopeless wreck." The same article, however, gave an account of Anderson's attempt to "counteract [the] baleful effects" of "the radical change in the labor system of the South...."

Anderson instituted a system whereby Lebanon was divided into small farms and a number of French immigrants formed a colony there called L'Esperance and proceeded to cultivate vinyards. The result of this experiment is unknown, but it must be assumed that it was not totally successful as there is no further mention of it.

In 1916, Mills B. Lane of Savannah purchased the plantation from the Anderson heirs. Mr. Lane, founder and later president of the Citizens and Southern National Bank of Georgia, continued the agricultural progressiveness of Lebanon Plantation by growing a new variety of orange, the Savannah Satsuma. Lane, a noted banker as well as a money-making farmer, was a believer in diversification, having learned farming at an early age from his father while growing up near Valdosta, Georgia. The orange trees were originally suggested by personnel of the Seaboard Airline Railway. The version of the Satsuma that was grown at Lebanon was slightly different from those in Florida and eventually, in 1932-33, the oranges were marketed under the name Savannah Satsuma.

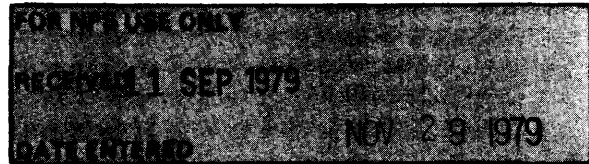
The Lanes lived at Lebanon from May through August each year, spending the rest of the year at their townhouse in Savannah. After Lane's death, his widow sold the plantation in 1961 to their only daughter, Mary Lane Morrison, who continues to use the plantation on a seasonal basis. The plantation remains a working plantation much in the same manner as it has for over two centuries.

Lebanon Plantation reflects the organic architectural growth of a plantation house continuously occupied through several generations. From its antebellum origins through virtual destruction during the Civil War and Reconstruction shortly thereafter to early-twentieth-century remodeling, the

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main house has retained its identity as the Lebanon Plantation while accommodating itself to new circumstances and needs. Not the least notable feature of the house is the persistence of classically-inspired architectural design throughout the major periods of building, rebuilding, and remodeling, so that the Neo-Classical veranda of the twentieth century coexists harmoniously with the core of a house built in the Greek Revival era of the nineteenth century. As the "Big House" for a living, working plantation, it reflects almost two centuries of ownership and lifestyles, yet has remained viable, whereas other such structures have fallen into ruin.

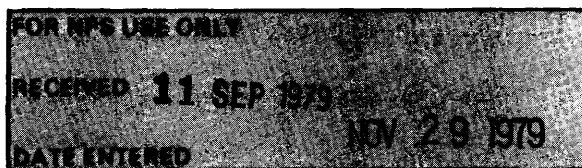
Archaeological Significance

The literature contains no record of archaeology having been conducted at Lebanon Plantation. However, based on historical documentation some archaeological potential is indicated. An 1804 deed refers to houses and outbuildings. During the Civil War all, or a portion, of the main house was thought to have been destroyed. The extent of damage to the plantation is suggested in an 1873 newspaper account. The family mansion has been "rebuilt" but the Federal army destroyed dwelling houses, Negro quarters, farm buildings and fences.

The number, location, extent, etc. of these potential archaeological resources is unknown due to the lack of documentation. Nevertheless, with Lebanon's long history in the development of coastal Georgia, this potential must be recognized in any attempt to fully understand the role of such a plantation. Only by considering the plantation as a complex having a variety of sources of cultural information (architectural, historical, and archaeological) can it be understood.

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Bibliography &
CONTINUATION SHEET Verbal Boundary ITEM NUMBER 9 & 10 PAGE 2

9. Major Bibliographical References

Savannah [Georgia] Morning News, April 23, 1873.

Information provided by Mary Lane Morrison.

Perkerson, Medora Field. White Columns in Georgia (New York: Rinehart and Co., Inc., 1952), pp. 90-93.

Candler, Allen D. Colonial Records of Georgia.

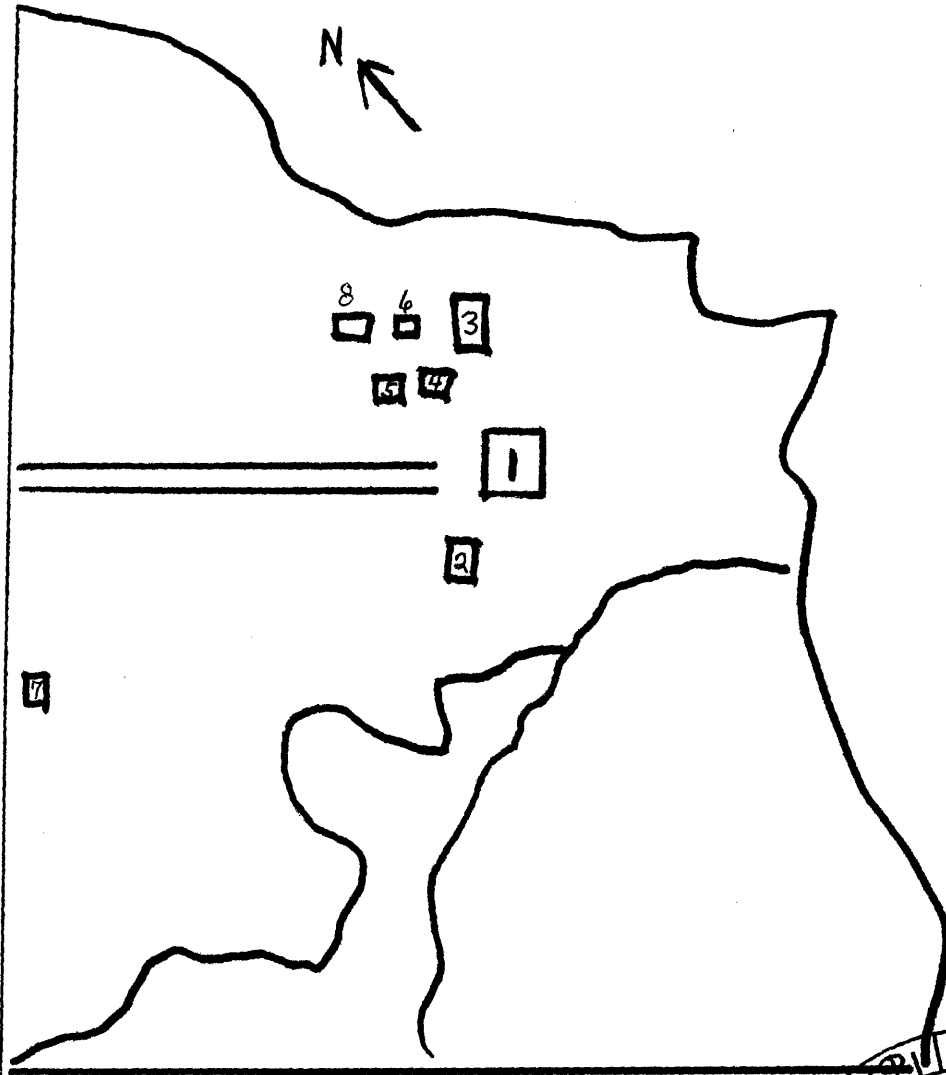
Garrard, William. "Growing Oranges in Georgia," The Atlanta Journal, March 5, 1933.

10. Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the intersection of the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad and the branch of the Little Ogeechee River, near Bench Mark 11, and following said branch of the river (see U.S.G.S. map and sketch maps) southeasterly until the confluence with the Little Ogeechee and thence along said Little Ogeechee River to the southwest (see maps) to a ditch and along said ditch northerly until it intersects with the said railroad. This being Parcels 24 through 29, inclusive, as shown on the Conservation Plan Map dated February 12, 1959 (copy enclosed).

SKETCH MAP - NOT TO SCALE

LEBANON PLANTATION
Savannah vicinity, Chatham County, Georgia



(Map based on aerial photograph)

KEY:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. Main House | 5. Caretaker's House |
| 2. Guest House | 6. Tool House (known as the "wash house") |
| 3. Barn | 7. Barn (originally a railroad warehouse) |
| 4. Servants' House | 8. Stable |

