

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**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 David Shelton House

and/or common Shelton-Maddox House and "Rebel Ridge"

2. Location

street & number George W. Towns Avenue _____ not for publication

city, town Talbotton _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 3rd-Jack Brinkley

state Georgia code 013 county Talbot code 263

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
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: antique shop

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Otis N. Maddox

street & number George W. Towns Avenue

city, town Talbotton _____ vicinity of _____ state Georgia 31827

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Talbot County Courthouse

city, town Talbotton _____ state Georgia 31827

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title (See continuation sheet.) _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

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 David Shelton House, built in 1845, is a four-over-four with central stair hall Greek Revival-style house. Two stories in height, it is built of mortise-and-tenon framing covered with flush siding on three sides and weather-board on the fourth. The foundation is of stone which is covered with a thin layer of stucco. A two-story portico completely surrounds all four sides of the house. Twenty-six cypress columns, each thirty feet high and six feet in circumference at the base, support a complete entablature with a beveled frieze. The hipped roof has four interior chimneys rising out of it--two on either side of the central axis of the house.

The front entrance has a six-panel door flanked by a double row of sidelights to either side, and a single transom above. The second-story front door reflects the first one, although the sidelight panels closest to the door are not filled with glass, but with wood. This door opens onto a small cantilevered balcony.

The interior of the house is based on the central hall, four rooms up-four rooms down floor plan. Each of the rooms has four windows, two on each exterior wall. These are sash windows which are six-over-nine in configuration. The four first-floor windows on the front facade are floor length and are nine-over-twelve in configuration.

The interior closely follows the Greek Revival style. The walls are plaster without moulding or ceiling medallions. The mantels to the seven remaining fireplaces, like all woodwork in the house, are of clean-cut, plain Greek Revival styling.

The main half-turned stairway is located in the rear of the central hall. It has turned balusters and a mahogany banister. The stairway to the attic is offset in the northeast upstairs bedroom in a small stair hall.

Alterations to the house include the addition of modern conveniences. In 1945, a small portion of the porch on the rear was enclosed on the first and second floors in the northeast corner. It contains a kitchen on the first floor and a laundry on the second. In 1970, the entire building was restored, and a one-story addition on the rear porch was made to provide bathroom facilities in the southeast corner.

Outbuildings include the original detached kitchen building, the carriage house (now used for an antique store), and smokehouse, all behind the main house. A small pump house was built in the 1930s. These buildings are all weatherboard structures of functional style and are well maintained by the owner [see the enclosed sketch map].

[continued]

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Landscaping around the house includes azalea beds around the portico and several large shade trees scattered around the yard with no plan for order. The house stands on a low rise of ground along the road at the outskirts of Talbotton. Immediately to the south is a pecan grove. To the east and south-east is a pine forest. New houses border the property to the north, south, and west.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
Specific dates	1845 (?)	Builder/Architect	Unknown, other than the owner	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The David Shelton House is significant in architecture, local history and historic archeology. Architecturally, it is significant as one of the finest examples of the craftsman/builder houses known in Georgia in the Greek Revival style. In local history, it is important as the home of David Shelton, a substantial planter and miller. In archeology, it is significant for the potential it offers as documented through plantation sales notices of its once-abundant outbuilding complex, only part of which remains close to the main house.

Architecturally, the house is significant as one of the finest examples of the craftsman/builder houses known in Georgia in the Greek Revival style. Its mortise-and-tenon-braced framing is of the highest quality. The full, four-sided colonnade of equal proportions is rarely found in Georgia. This one has been only slightly altered on the rear, where a kitchen has been added on the lower level and a laundry on the upper one. The four-over-four central hall plan is perfectly executed and the rooms are massive and well proportioned. Detailing is restrained and full-bodied. The house and its setting truly are the archetype of the often-romanticized antebellum Southern image. Its style reflects the definition of Greek Revival as stated by Talbot Hamlin in Greek Revival Architecture in America (1944): "The designers of this period seemed to possess an innate talent for adapting the new architectural fashion to the requirements of the region, preserving traditional usages, accepting local building materials, and conforming to climatic exigencies. There is consequently a homogeneous expression with numerous regional variations...Decorative detail was based upon classic precedent, and especially upon Greek precedent," due to Western enthusiasm for the Greeks' wars of independence which parallel in some ways the recent American War for Independence.

In local history, the house is significant as the home of David Shelton, who, at the time of his death in 1854, ran a 1,550-acre plantation from this house as well as a saw-milling operation several miles away on the county line. It was from this mill that the lumber used in this house was brought. On his 3,500-acre mill tract he operated, according to the notice for sale of his estate, "in successful operation one of the finest and most valuable saw mills in Western Georgia, to which is attached an excellent grist mill."

His main plantation, including this house and surrounding acreage, was several miles from the town of Talbotton, but close enough not to necessitate

[continued]

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 9.6 acres

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Talbotton, Ga.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

A	<u>16</u>	<u>731170</u>	<u>3618980</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary is marked on the enclosed plat map. The nominated property includes the portion of the original plantation still associated with the main house. It is all that is owned by the current owner.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title a) Nancy Alexander, Historic Preservation Planner
 b) Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian

organization a) Lower Chattahoochee APDC
 b) Historic Preservation Sec., Ga. D.N.R. date April 10, 1980

street & number a) P. O. Box 1908
 b) 270 Washington St., S.W. telephone a) 404/324-4221
 b) 404/656-2840

city or town a) Columbus
 b) Atlanta state b) 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon
 Elizabeth A. Lyon date 6/30/80

title Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

W. Ray Luce date 9/17/80
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Curt Dubie date 9/15/80
 Chief of Registration

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his having a separate town house. It is described in The Columbus Enquirer of October 30, 1855, in the notice for its sale:

A Choice Plantation for Sale

... containing about 1550 acres of which about 1100 are cleared and well fenced, considerable portions of which has [sic] been recently opened and a great deal of which is low grounds.

There is upon the premises ... a splendid Dwelling newly and elegantly finished, with other convenient and necessary buildings on the premises. The yards, gardens, etc., are all tastily laid out, neatly and newly paled in. And a convenient distance and a little removed from the town is a comfortable building, a suitable residence for the overseer, near which is a large number of framed negro houses, and all other buildings useful to a large plantation.

On the place is an extensive orchard with every variety of fruit trees that can be cultivated in this climate. The plantation is well arranged, the fields of convenient and suitable size, most of them having running water in them, with strong and substantial gates entering into each....

Previous to selling his real estate, his perishable property had been sold, including livestock, furniture and "a large quantity of the finest guns ever exhibited in this country."

It is presumed that cotton was the main staple crop of this plantation.

Little else is known about David Shelton except that he left a family, including a child he had had legitimized by the state legislature only a few months prior to his death. The child's appearance in his will as an heir caused quite a stir among his other children. Her untimely death led to a decision before the Georgia Supreme Court in which Shelton's other children were declared her heirs, rather than her mother and her non-Shelton half-brother and sister.

John R. Kimbrough bought the plantation from Shelton's heirs in 1861 for \$18,000. This included 1,300 acres. He operated a farm there for three decades, after which the house went to the Leonard family: first, Roderick Leonard, who resided there from 1890-1927, and then Dr. William P. Leonard, from 1927-1944.

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The latter was living there when it was surveyed by the Historic American Buildings Survey.

Somewhere during the years, the house became known as "Rebel Ridge." The present resident/owner purchased the property in 1969 and operates an antique business in one of the outbuildings in the rear.

The historic-archeological significance of this property is derived from the knowledge of its being the core of a large antebellum plantation with numerous outbuildings and orchards, as mentioned in the estate sale notice, quoted above, from 1855. No archeological investigation has taken place. Many of the historic outbuildings still exist: a detached kitchen, smokehouse, carriage house (with a modern antique shop addition), along with implement sheds and a pumphouse. A pecan grove is also extant immediately south of the house.

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Continuation sheet Representation in
Existing Surveys

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Title: Historic American Buildings Survey (Dr. Leonard House)

Date: 1937

Depository for Survey Records: Library of Congress, Division of Prints & Photographs

City, Town, State: Washington, D.C.

Federal

Title: Historic Structures Field Survey: Talbot County, Georgia

Date: 1976

Depository for Survey Records: Historic Preservation Section, Department of
Natural Resources

City, Town, State: Atlanta, Georgia

State

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Continuation sheet Bibliography

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Page 2

Personal Inspection, Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., and Richard Cloues, 1979.

Interview with Gene Culpepper by Nancy Alexander, December 5, 1979.

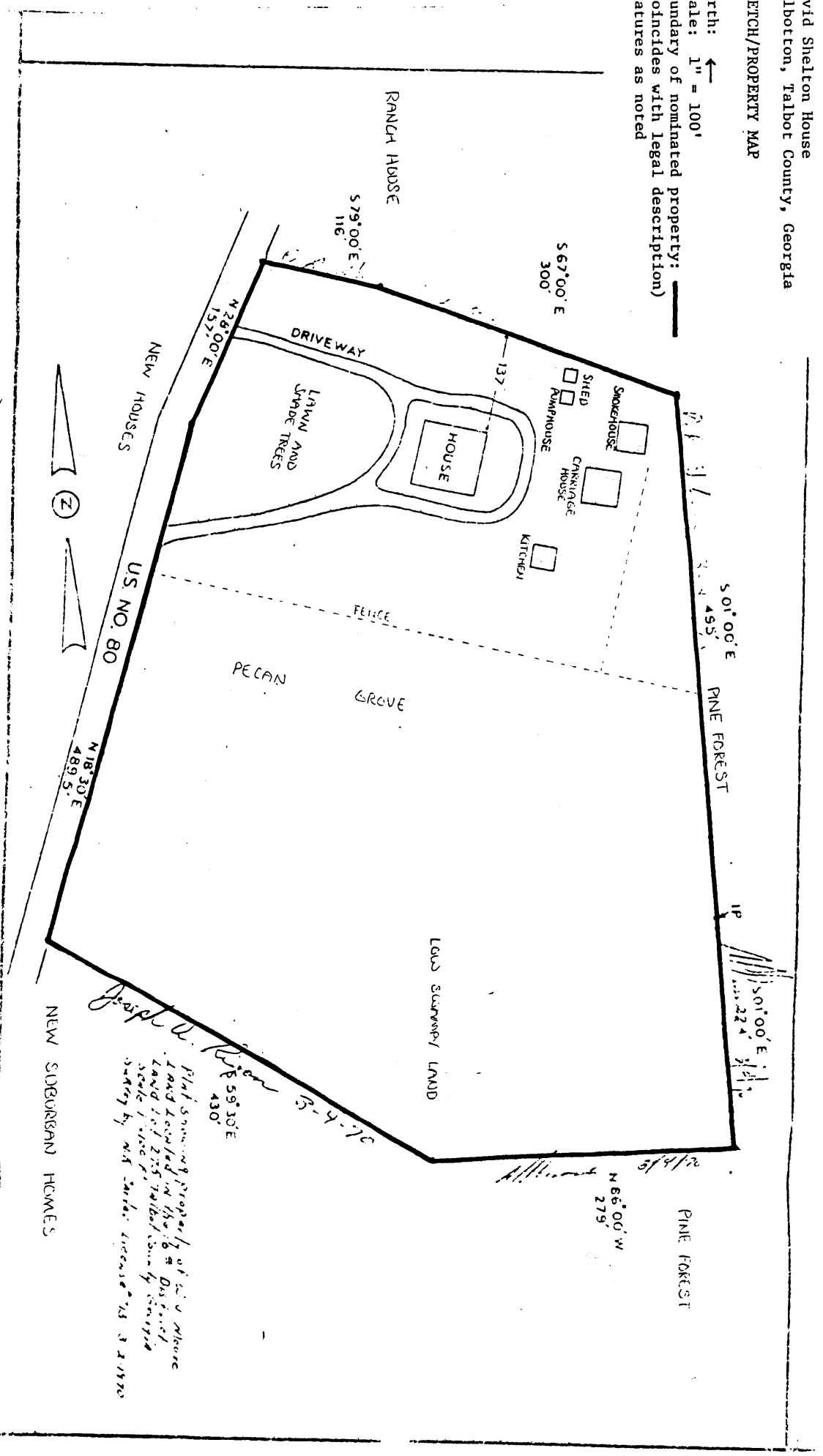
Jordan, Robert H. There Was a Land. Privately published, 1971.

Sales and Cash Book B, pp. 230-237, Sale of Perishable Property of David Shelton, deceased, filed March 1855, Talbot County Courthouse, Probate Judge's Office.

The Columbus Enquirer, various estate sale notices.

David Shelton House
 Talbotton, Talbot County, Georgia
 SKETCH/PROPERTY MAP

North: ←
 Scale: 1" = 100'
 Boundary of nominated property: ———
 (coincides with legal description)
 Features as noted



David W. Nelson
 3-4-70
 Plat showing property of David Nelson
 Land located in the 16th District
 Land lot 225 Talbot County Georgia
 scale 1" = 100' survey by Georgia
 survey by W.S. Smith increase 75 3 1 1970

NEW SUBURBAN HOMES