

PH0352900

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 24 1977

DATE ENTERED AUG 24 1977

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**HISTORIC ☒ Rutledge House

AND/OR COMMON

"Rebel Hall"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

5 of LaGrange on

Bartley Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

LaGrange

☒ VICINITY OF

3rd-Jack Brinkley

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Georgia

13

Troup

285

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

☐ DISTRICT☐ PUBLIC☐ OCCUPIED☒ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☒ BUILDING(S)☒ PRIVATE☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ STRUCTURE☐ BOTH☐ WORK IN PROGRESS☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ OBJECT☐ IN PROCESS☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ BEING CONSIDERED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ NO☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. Thomas M. Lowe, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

1920 Monroe Drive

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

VICINITY OF

STATE
Georgia**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Troup County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

LaGrange

STATE
Georgia**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

___EXCELLENT

___GOOD

XFAIR

___DETERIORATED

___RUINS

___UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

___UNALTERED

XALTERED

CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE

___MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Rutledge House, built by an Englishman named Urpe from 1850-52, is a fully developed two-story Greek Revival style domestic structure, which originally featured a colossal Doric columned portico on three sides. Still on its original site, the house is located close to the Bartley Road, midway between West Point and LaGrange.

Originally the Rutledge House's monumental portico of fluted Doric columns extended around the north or front, the east and west facades of the house. A balcony with sheaf-of-wheat ballustrade above a delicate dentil motif presently extends on only two sides and visually separates the two storys. The centrally located trabeated balcony and main doorways on the north facade have side and transom lights, framing pilasters and an intricate dentiled entablature. The north facade is five bays wide, with two nine-over-nine sash windows on each side of the entrance; the side facades are three bays wide. Doric fluted pilasters between the windows on the two remaining porticoed facades reinforce the vertical sweep created by the columns of the portico. An unusually prominent and heavy dentil motif is found under the second story eave on the entablature.

This two story house has a four room central hall plan. Each of the eight rooms has a 10 foot ceiling, panelled wainscoting and dog eared trim on the windows, closets and "cross and bible doors". In each room is found a center fireplace with simple mantels featuring a plaster supported frieze, some with panels, and a shelf. Generally the mantels are 4 1/2 feet high and four feet wide. Original closets located adjacent to the mantels occur in all four upstairs rooms.

Several alterations were made to the exterior by William Poindexter who purchased the house in 1948. He removed the dogtrot which extended from the rear facade to the kitchen in back. The east portico was removed and the roof corresponding to it was shortened. Wooden floors of the porticos were removed and the 24 foot long columns were placed on higher cement piers. Poindexter added an enclosed narrow porch to the rear of the house, a bathroom on the second floor and trophy cases and corner cupboards to some first floor rooms.

The most unique feature of the house is its staircase, whose landing, 3 1/2 feet below the second floor, provides the foundation for two flights of five stairs each leading in different directions to the front and rear bedrooms. It is known as the "good morning" staircase because family and guests greeted each other from the balustraded balconies formed by the stairs.

Owners previous to Poindexter had converted the northeast rooms of the bottom floor into a kitchen and had carved a small bathroom out of hall space to the west of it. When Poindexter acquired the house all of the outbuildings except the well, which sits 10 feet to the east of the house, had been destroyed. After Poindexter's ownership, "Rebel Hall" had a series of owners and years of neglect. Today the unoccupied house has the distinct smell of mildew, as the roof has rotted and puddles of water are stagnate on the floor. Consequently the wooden floors are badly warped and the plaster ceilings sag and crack.

The house and five surrounding acres are presently for sale.

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 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) History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1850-1852

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Urpe

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rutledge House is an outstanding example of the Greek Revival style built during the mid-19th century as a formidable plantation residence.

In 1825, after the Cherokee Indians were removed, Troup County was open for settlement and land lot 260 in the fourth district was granted to Mary Fuller of Warren County, Georgia. Twenty seven years later, Joseph Rutledge and his wife June had a "house warming" for their neighbors in the Grayhill community, to celebrate the completion of their beautiful Greek Revival House, located on the land once owned by Mary Fuller. This "house warming" was the first of many festive occasions at the Rutledge House. One story handed down by his descendants concerns a dinner party at which the festivities were halted by sudden consternation as the fine wines which Rutledge kept upstairs popped their corks and seeped through the ceiling dripping onto the elaborate table. Yet another story tells of the time when Rutledge "feed and slept 75 people at the house fer a religious affair."

At a time when the "west was open and cotton was king," Rutledge was a middle class cotton planter. Before the Civil War, he owned approximately forty slaves. Rutledge has been characterized by one of his descendants as a "big, stubborn man who had an uneasy relationship with his slaves." One tale relates how his slaves fooled him by putting rocks into their bags of cotton before weighing in. Rutledge, upon noting the discrepancy in the weight of the cotton before and after it was ginned punished his son for "weighing it wrong."

Rutledge lived at the house until his death in 1892. His daughter, Annie Jane Robertsor Fleming, lived there until 1908 when she sold it to the Bill Hogg family. In 1948, a retired Army Colonel, William Poindexter, and his wife purchased and restored the house. Poindexter, a yankee, named the house "Rebel Hall" due to its symbolic look of the Old South. Rebel Hall has received much publicity, and photographs, with certain data, have appeared in national publications. The present owner purchased the house at an auction in 1972.

According to local tradition, Mr. Urpe, the English builder, architect, was contracted to come to America to build several houses in New England. While here he also built two houses in Georgia, Rebel Hall and "a house on Shoals Creek." This other house may well be the Kendrick-Poer-Crawford House, or Whitehall, built c.1857, near West Point, Georgia in Harris County, since it is the only other extant example of the use of the unique heavy dentil motif in Georgia. Another unusual feature of the house is its "good morning" stairs, described on the facing page and found only occasionally in Georgia. (One other example is the Ryals-Davis House, c.1853 near Cartersville.) Architecturally, the Rutledge House or Rebel Hall as it is currently called is one of the state's foremost examples of the Greek Revival style.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brown's Guide to Georgia, "A House Fit For A Yankee Colonel," Jan/Feb 1976, p.80, 81
Davidson, William H., Pine Log and Creek Revival, Outlook Publishing Company, 1964.
Golsen, Maurie G., site inspected August 1976.
Poindexter, William, interview with on September 1, 1976.
Troup County Courthouse Records
Rouzzier, Mertia, interviewed August 17, 1976

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 6,8,0 2,6,0 3,6 4,5 1,0,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C 1,6 6,8,0 2,0,0 3,6 4,4 8,6,0

B 1,6 6,8,0 3,4,0 3,6 4,4 9,8,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D 1,6 6,8,0 1,0,0 3,6 4,4 9,8,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Maurie G. Golsen, Intern (Elizabeth Z. Macgregor, Consultant, Architectural Historian)
ORGANIZATION DATE

Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources September 2, 1976
STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

270 Washington Street, S.W., Room 703-C 404-656-2840
CITY OR TOWN STATE

Atlanta 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

DAVID M. SHERMAN

DATE

TITLE

Chief, Historic Preservation Section

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Rutledge House, "Rebel Hall", LaGrange, Troup County

Photographs by: David J. Kaminsky

Date: April, 1975

Negatives filed at: Department of Natural Resources

1. Three quarter view of front and west facades, looking southeast.
2. Three quarter view of front and west facades, looking southeast.
3. Main Entrance.
4. West and Rear Facades, looking northwest.
5. East and Rear Facades.
6. Garage located at the rear of the house.
7. Stairs and landing.
8. Mantel in the northeast room.