

PH0246859

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 22 1975
DATE ENTERED FEB 6 1975

**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

The Thomas Carr District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Near the intersection of highway 150 and I-20
Old Augusta-Wrightsboro Road

CITY, TOWN

Thomson

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
10th - Robert G. Stephens, Jr.

STATE

Georgia

CODE

13

COUNTY

McDuffie

CODE

189

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple owners

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Thomson

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. McDuffie County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Thomson

STATE
Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

1932 1710

7 DESCRIPTION

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

Within the Thomas Carr District, a part of the original late eighteenth and early nineteenth century Carr Plantation, are the Simpson House, the Bohler house, the E. V. Minton house, "Snow Hill," and "Alexandria."

"Alexandria," Carr's own home built between 1803-1806, is a two story American bonded brick house with a two-over-two room, central hall plan. There are two smaller first floor rooms on either side of what was the original central rear porch. The five bay front facade has a two story narrow wooden portico which has the original columns and scalloped wood trim. The rear has a new porch and bathroom which enclose the original rear porch. There were four original entrances to the house: the front, a side which opens into the dining room, a rear opening into the central hall, and a rear opening into the small room used as Colonel Carr's office.

On the interior, the main central hall offers access to a cellar and two floors. The cellar steps, which are the original pegged construction, are located under the main staircase. The remaining area under the house, which can be reached only by exterior entrances, is crawl space and is separated from the cellar by a brick wall. On the first floor on either side of the central hall are two main rooms. The parlor has a well-defined cornice, panelled wainscotting, plastered walls, and a mantel with a repeating vertical gouged design across the frieze. In the dining room is a "Virginia inspired" mantel with a slightly bowed frieze with bolection molding and mantel shelf. From the dining room is access to a small keeping room to the rear and exterior door that probably led to the kitchen. The den, which was the original open back porch, is floored with brick that is worn from the back door to the small room behind the parlor which was the plantation office. The hall has chair railings and wainscotting which is gouged and panelled. The front entrance, which is asymmetrical from the interior, has a double door with a transom and the original hardware including a large wooden bolt extending the width of the door, held in place by two metal pieces (the main, rear, and second story doors have this, also). The original rear door is three panels wide and is defined by a transom light.

Off the second floor central hall are two main rooms, a bath installed in the 1950's at the end of the hall, and a large bolted door giving access to the front porch balcony. The northeast room has the same wood cornice as the parlor, wide pine flooring, unpainted wainscotting, and two recently added closets. The southwest room has chair rails, no wainscotting, and a new closet. On both floors in the central hall, the northeast wall is the main loadbearing wall constructed of brick some fifteen inches thick; whereas, the southwest wall is a non-loadbearing simple frame partition. Throughout the house there is well defined relief in the panelling of the wainscotting, built in cupboards, blinds, and doors. Original solid panelled blinds on the first floor windows remain. There were no blinds on second floor windows at any time. The brickwork on all walls is of American or common bond with three rows of stretchers between each row of leaders up to the level of the second story windows and from there to the top with five rows of stretchers between each row of leaders. Brick are well glazed, hard and stable throughout. Mortar joints are not lined. There is a chamfered water table,

(continued)

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

but no belt course. The flat arches above each window and the front door are constructed of rubbed and guaged bricks of a light pinkish color as are the bricks surrounding the two round fixed windows in the gable ends on the third floor.

Although the main house, "Alexandria," is in good condition, the original outbuildings mentioned in the Carr documents do not remain. These included the kitchen, smokehouse, temple, dairy, spring house, and slave houses. Nor does a documented frame house built by Carr in 1790 remain. Ruins of a log barn survive.

To the west of "Alexandria" and usually visible is "Snow Hill." It is thought to have been built after Carr's death but before the smaller homes in the district. "Snow Hill," a double, full width porticoed painted two story brick and wood building, has a four-over-four room, central hall floor plan. The first floor is constructed of American bonded brick, and the second is of weatherboard. A rear portico, originally enclosed partially, is very similar to the front facade. The dentil work, under the eaves, surrounds the entire house. The front trabeated doorway, with side and transom lights, has unique identations to either side of the panelled door.

Throughout the interior of the house, the walls are plastered and the doors have a panel design of two long panels over two short ones.

The first floor has four rooms off a central hall, as well as kitchen and bathroom additions. In the hall is what appears to be an unfinished staircase due to the temporary bannister and measured marks in the steps for the installation of rails and bannisters which did not occur. Both floors have simple mantels with pilaster supported friezes and shelves. On the second floor are four bedrooms with original closets in two of the bedrooms and four in the hall. The stairs continue with a large attic space originally partially completed with some plaster and flooring.

"Snow Hill" is situated on a knoll in the midst of pasture land, off the Old Augusta-Wrightsboro Road, sometimes called the Quaker Road, because Wrightsboro was a Quaker community settled in 1768.

The Bohler House, on highway 150 between the E.V. Minton House and "Alexandria" is a simple one story frame house with a central temple form portico.

The Simpson House, on highway 150, at the crossroads with the Old Augusta-Wrightsboro Road, appears to be a one and a half story salt box variation with three gables in the front and assorted later rear additions. The three bay facade has a front entrance with double doors enclosed with medalion treated pilasters. There are four outbuildings: a barn or storage structure, what appears to be the original well, and two others which date from the early twentieth century.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

The Minton House, a saltbox variation with boxed cornice and returns is a one and one half story structure with three dormer windows and a one story porch. The main portion of the house has a four room central hall plan with connecting (now enclosed) breezeway and newly renovated kitchen area. A barn is in the rear.

The total environment of this Thomas Carr District is one of rural, farmland, sparsely settled and without twentieth century intrusions other than highway 150.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Thomas Carr District is significant historically, architecturally, and environmentally. Its historic aspect is seen in the life of its original owner, Thomas Carr, and his outstanding home, "Alexandria." The home displays a colonial Virginia influence in its architectural design which is rarely found in this area. Most importantly, the environment reflects the evolutionary process which has occurred to this property since the prime of the Carr plantation to the present. The stages of this development are evident in the architecture of all the houses.

Thomas Carr, son of William and Susannah Carr, was born in Spottsylvania County, Virginia, in 1758. His father was a large landowner in Virginia, sheriff of Spottsylvania and relative of Dabney Carr, the patriot friend and brother-in-law of Thomas Jefferson. Thomas Carr fought in the Revolutionary War in South Carolina and Georgia. During the Siege of Charleston he slipped through the British lines and joined Francis Marion's forces. He was twice wounded and as a cavalry Captain led a series of important raids which resulted in the liberation of Augusta from British control in 1781.

After the Revolution Carr settled in Georgia. He was an adventurer and speculator by nature. In 1787 he surveyed out that part of Georgia which was later to become the Tennessee River Valley of Alabama. In 1793 and 1794 he was a Colonel in the Army of the French Republic and participated along with old war hero Elijah Clarke in the so-called Genet Rebellion, a scheme in which recruits from Kentucky, South Carolina, and Georgia planned to capture Florida from the Spanish.

In 1789 and 1790 Thomas Carr was an incorporator and director of the Tennessee Yazoo Company, one of four corporations organized to purchase extensive lands in the present states of Alabama and Mississippi. Many prominent Americans such as Patrick Henry of Virginia and Wade Hampton of South Carolina were leaders of these four land companies. Stock was sold throughout the United States. Also in 1789 and 1790 Carr was a member of the Georgia legislature which, in addition to ratifying the Constitution of the United States, entered into a contract to sell its western lands to the Yazoo companies. When the companies tendered worthless Georgia currency for the purchase price, the State Treasurer refused to convey. For several years litigation was pending. Then in 1795 the Yazoo companies reorganized and after much political agitation and bribery of legislators the "Yazoo Fraud" was perpetrated through the conveyance of nearly 50,000,000 acres of land for about one cent an acre. The following year a new legislature repealed and rescinded and publicly burned the Yazoo Act in Louisville, Georgia, the capital of the State. As stock had been sold throughout the United States but particularly in New England, the

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Baker, Pearl, personal inspection, 1971
- Carr, Thomas, collection at the University of Georgia Library.
- Day, Kathleen A., Interviews: Mr. & Mrs. William M. Griffin, Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Harrison III., Mrs. E. V. Minton, Winter 1975
- Day, Kathleen A., personal inspection, Winter 1975.
- Deeds at McDuffie County Courthouse

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM OK - Wm
12-22-75

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 350 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	3,6,7	3,8,0	3,7	1,1	4,5,0	B	1,7	3,6,7	3,9,0	3,7	0,9	8,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING
C	1,7	3,6,4	7,2,0	3,7	0,9	8,2,0	D	1,7	3,6,4	7,2,0	3,7	1,1	4,4,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Starting at a point on highway 150, approximately 1000 feet southwest of the cross-roads with the Old Augusta-Wrightsboro Road, go west approximately 6,000 feet to the intersection of the Old Augusta-Wrightsboro Road and the first dirt road west of "Snow Hill", then go north approximately 1300 feet to the first dirt road on the left (according to the map), then go approximately 4500 feet northeast to a point, then go east approximately 4500 feet to highway 150 (not to include the power sub-

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

(Wm. Griffin, Historical Researcher
Elizabeth Macgregor, Consulting Architectural Historian)

NAME / TITLE

Kathleen A. Kay, Intern

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources March 25, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

270 Washington Street, S.W. Room 703-C

404-656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Atlanta

Georgia 30334

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

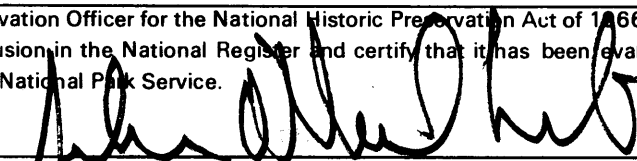
NATIONAL X

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE



TITLE

JACKSON O'NEAL LAMB
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

June 19, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

James D. Ryan
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

12/6/75

ATTEST:

Acting
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11.28.75

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

matter became a national issue. Arguments raged in Congress for years and the matter was culminated in 1810 by the landmark decision of the United States Supreme Court in the case of Fletcher versus Peck. In this celebrated case (now studied by every freshman law student in America) the Court under the leadership of John Marshall laid down the rule of law that no State can abridge the rights of a contract by subsequent legislation. Accordingly, the Yazoo companies got their land. "Alexandria" is the only house extant in Georgia which was owned by a person connected with the Yazoo affair.

In 1787 Thomas Carr purchased five hundred acres from Elizabeth Lee who had inherited some from her husband, Greensberry Lee. John Lee, the father of Greensberry Lee, had received this acreage by grant from the Crown in 1771, the same year the Augusta-Wrightsboro Road was built. This is the dirt road running from east to west near the southern limits of the district and the road over which William Bartram travelled many times from 1773 to 1776. Also in 1787 Thomas Carr married Frances Bacon of Richmond County, Georgia. Before 1800 Carr had accumulated approximately 2250 acres at this location. His first home on the tract must have been a log cabin, but in 1790 he built a frame house. Records of the construction of this house are among his extensive papers now in the Special Collections, University of Georgia Library, Athens, Georgia. About 1795 Carr apparently decided to settle down for good at Alexandria and to read law. In 1796 he was admitted to the bar and thereafter he continued in the practice of law. He ran for various political offices many times (including the U. S. House of Representatives three times) but his Yazoo connections were used to defeat him time and time again.

Between 1804 and 1806 he built the brick house at Alexandria. The bills, contracts, and receipts now in the University of Georgia library furnish an unparalleled record for Georgia of the construction of a house as to craftsmen, materials, and prices. To Booker Sutton he paid \$260.00 for the laying of 130,000 brick, \$72.00 for the setting of 24 arches and \$48.00 for burning four kilns of bricks. To John Griffin he paid \$30.00 molding and burning brick. The account with James Ray and H. Stovall discloses the cost of making 35 door and window frames to be \$87.50, to getting 8960 shingles, \$18.00; to jointing and rounding 8960 shingles, \$8.96; to shingling brick house, \$18.00; to building the portico, \$84.00; and to making 14 feet of scallop board, \$1.75. A bill from H. & A. Nesbett, Augusta, dated January 29, 1906, shows the cost of 11 gallons of linseed oil to be \$19.25; four kegs of Spanish lead, \$15.00; two kegs of white lead, \$10.50; one box of 10 by 8 window glass, \$18.00; and two bottles of turpentine, \$1.00. A contract dated November 27, 1806, between Carr and Benjamin Pierce of Warren County, Georgia, was for painting "the new brick house-inside and out- glaze all his windows, paint the pailing (sic) round his garden and yard and Temple, all of which said Pierce engages shall be done and executed in a workman like manner with neatness and dispatch" for \$110.00.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

In 1806 when the brick house was completed Thomas Carr owned 32,500 acres of land in Georgia. Colonel Carr must have lived a rich and rewarding life thereafter. His interest in science is indicated by his purchase of a pair of globes and a sextant in 1807 and his subscription in 1810 to Alexander Wilson's American Ornithology. One of his daughters, Susan, married Nicholas Ware, a prominent Augusta attorney and United States Senator, and the other daughter, Selina, married Ignatius Few, a lawyer, clergyman and founder and first president of Emory College. When James Madison visited Georgia in 1819 he was driven about in Carr's carriage which was pulled by his team of cream-colored horses. Thomas Carr died in 1820. In his will he devised his site at Alexandria to his son William Anthony Carr, but he had previously deeded a one-half interest in Alexandria to his other son, Thomas Dabney Carr. After his death the two sons partitioned the "Alexandria Establishment" as it was called. Thomas Dabney Carr by lot got the half containing the brick house and William Anthony received the other half upon which "Snow Hill" was later built. In 1829 Thomas Dabney Carr lost Alexandria through foreclosure. Subdivisions and resubdivisions through the years reduced the acreage upon which the brick house is situated to fifty acres in successive ownerships by Benjamin Leigh, Jared Pounds, E. B. Stone, E. Wilson Hawes and others. It now is situated on a 276 acre tract owned by William and Florence Griffin. The William Anthony Carr tract was sold to John P. Eves of Augusta in 1824. Its successive owners were Robert Bealle, Jesse Clarke, Guilford Alford, James Hamilton and Montreville Fulton. From the time of Fultons ownership it has been known as the "Fulton Place," but a deed dated November 9, 1875 during Fulton's ownership refers to it as "Snow Hill Plantation." It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Harrison.

Alexandria is the earliest surviving brick house in Georgia which can be documented as to date of construction. It also is one of the few if not the only house in Georgia displaying rubbed and gauged brickwork.

CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Griffin, William W., Historical Research Compiled and on file at Dept. of Natural Resources, May 1975.

Macgregor, Elizabeth Z., personal inspection, Winter 1975.

CONTINUATION SHEET Verbal Boundary Description ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

station), then follow the highway north approximately 1200 feet which would be approximately 800 feet northwest of the Minton house, then go east approximately 1000 feet to a dirt road, then southwest approximately 5300 feet to a point then west approximately 1600 feet to the beginning.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED	SEP 11 1975
DATE ENTERED	DEC 6 1975

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

P. 7.22.75


AMENDMENT TO THOMAS CARR DISTRICT

MCDUFFIE COUNTY

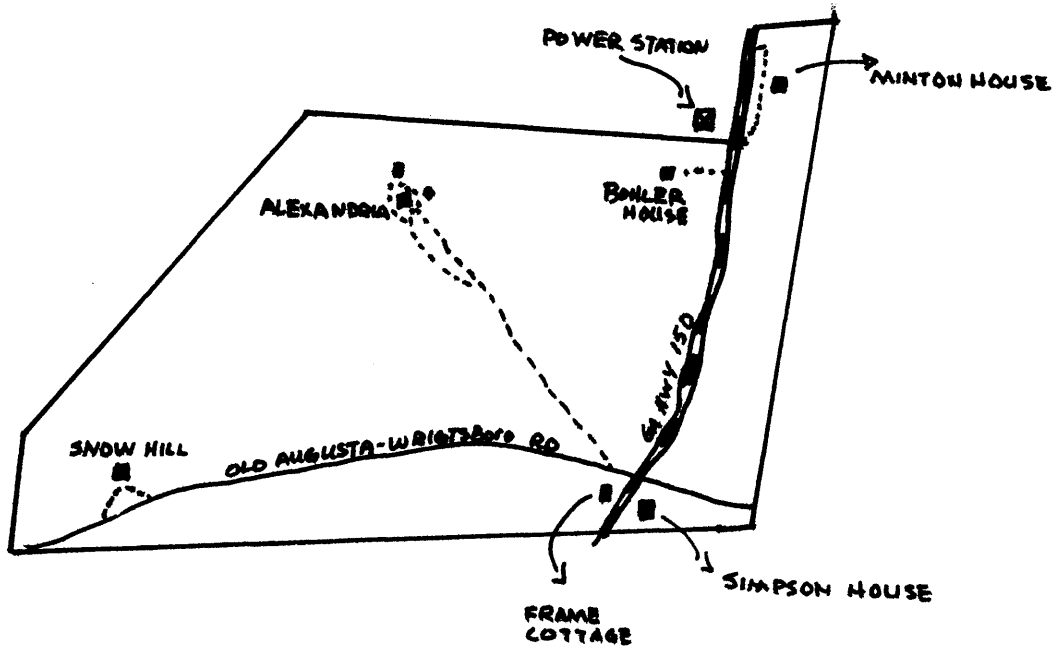
CORRECTED BOUNDARIES: Starting at a point on highway 150, approximately 1000 feet southwest of the crossroads with the Old Augusta-Wrightsboro Road, go west approximately 6,000 feet to the intersection of the Old Augusta-Wrightsboro Road and the first dirt road west of "Snow Hill", then following the dirt road, go north approximately 1300 feet to the first dirt road on the left (according to the map), then go approximately 4500 feet northeast to a point, then go east approximately 4500 feet to highway 150 (not to include the power sub-station), then follow the highway north approximately 1200 feet which would be approximately 800 feet northwest of the Minton house, then go east approximately 1000 feet to a dirt road, then southwest approximately 5300 feet to a point then west approximately 1600 feet to the beginning.

The Thomas Carr District was developed as a district from the original 2250 acres owned by Thomas Carr in the early 1800's. After his death, his two sons, Thomas Dabney and William Anthony, divided the lands. By 1829 Thomas Dabney lost his "Alexandria" property and the subdivisions of the Carr property have continued to the present. It is significant to show visually and historically as much of the original Carr property that is not impaired by intrusions. The Thomas Carr District as it stands now shows only a portion of the Carr property, visually protecting the main house, "Alexandria," which can be seen from as far away as "Snow Hill" during the winter season. Originally the Carr property extended southward of I-20. It is important to interpret these 18th and 19th century plantation sites within as much as possible of the vast acreage that originally accompanied them.

Elizabeth Z. Macgregor
Architectural Historian
Historic Preservation Section
Department of Natural Resources
270 Washington Street, S.W., Room 703-C
Atlanta, Georgia 30334


David M. Sherman
State Historic Preservation Officer

September 5, 1975



THOMAS CARR DISTRICT
SKETCH MAP
APPROXIMATE SCALE 1" = 2000'