

I. IDENTIFICATION

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PROPERTY NAME:	Rushton Residence	HISTORIC NAME:	<u>Cheek House</u>		
STREET ADDRESS:	38 Hartwell Road.	CITY:	Lavonia		
PRESENT OWNER:	Archie Rushton	MAILING ADDRESS:	38 Hartwell Road		
CITY:	Lavonia	STATE:	Georgia	ZIP CODE:	30533
CURRENT USE:	Residence	ACREAGE:	1 acre		
U. S. G. S. QUADRANGLE:	Lavonia, Ga.-S.C.	U. T. M. REFERENCE:			
V. B. D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER:	313-002-005		Z17 E306920 N3812080		

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II. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION:

Two-story brick residence of narrow proportions built on a central hall plan with end chimneys. Front facade is dominated by two-story Greek Revival-styled porch with coffered architrave supported by four columns. End columns are square brick pillars and the two central columns which visually frame the entrance are wooden Ionic columns with acanthus motifs. This porch is topped by a steeply-pitched central gable which adds a Gothic touch to the structure. The entrance is located in a one-story bay topped by a balcony with balustrade. Windows and the doorway in the bay contain trabeated stone lintels. The remaining windows and doors have segmental brick arches, with three-level radiating voussoirs. Windows are four-over-four throughout the structure. Brick pattern is six rows of stretchers to one row of headers, with variations. The house contains two exterior and one interior chimneys.

The original structure was four rooms over two rooms. A one-story wing was added to the rear of the structure sometime before 1932 and today this wing is used for the kitchen, dining room, and breakfast room. A porch supported by miniature Ionic columns is located on the rear of this wing. On the south facade there is a concrete patio and evidence of a former one-story porch. The house is in good condition.

A one-story brick structure and a one-story wooden structure, which is believed to have been the former kitchen, are located at the rear of the property but are in poor condition. The landscape is grassed, with large hardwoods placed in informal arrangements. Boxwoods which line each side of the central entrance walk add a formal character to the landscape.

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III. HISTORY

ORIGINAL OWNER:	Josephine Stevenson Cheek	ORIGINAL USE:	Residence
ARCHITECT/BUILDER:	Will Edgar Stevenson	HISTORIC ACREAGE:	1 acre+

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DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1904

DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS. Wing added,  
pre-1932

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT):

This structure was built by W. E. Stevenson, a local builder noted for brick construction (See No. 16), as a wedding gift for his daughter, Josephine, who married Ben Cheek in 1905. Cheek, an agent for the Elberton Air Line railroad, resided in this structure with his wife and two sons until 1932. The brick used in the construction of the house came from Mr. Stevenson's brickyard to the rear of the Stevenson House which is located across the street (No. 16). The property was sold in 1932 to Mr. Morgan Williams, Sr., an insurance salesman who specialized in farm properties, and the Cheek family moved to the Ray House which still stands on Baker Street (in Jones Street District). The house was occupied by the Williams family until 1973 when Dr. and Mrs. Archie Rushton acquired the property.

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## IV. SIGNIFICANCE

N. R. AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture LEVEL: Local

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL):

Architecturally, this structure is significant as an example of early twentieth-century eclectic residential design. The narrow, two-over-two plan with central hall reflects the earlier I-house or Plantation-Plain tradition. The steep front gable reflects the Gothic Revival style. The two-story porch is reminiscent of Greek Revival architecture and the Ionic columns on the front porch and rear porch are Neoclassical-inspired elements. Such eclecticism is characteristic of builder-designed houses. This structure is also important for its association with W. E. Stevenson, a local craftsman a brick mason who built numerous structures within the multiple resource area. This structure is the finest residential structure built by Stevenson within Lavonia. It uses bricks manufactured in Stevenson's brickyard across Hartwell Road (No. 16).

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REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: Historic Structures Survey  
Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Chamber of Commerce Committee  
Dr. and Mrs. Archie Rushton