

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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 **Traveler's Rest**
AND/OR COMMON **Jarrett Manor**

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER **6 miles east of Toccoa off Route 123, on Riverdale Road**
NOT FOR PUBLICATION
 CITY, TOWN **Toccoa** VICINITY OF **ninth**
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
 STATE **Georgia** CODE **13** COUNTY **Stevens** CODE **257**

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input 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: |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME **State of Georgia; Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Historic Sites**
Division
 STREET & NUMBER **270 Washington Street, S.W.**
 CITY, TOWN **Atlanta** VICINITY OF **Georgia** STATE **Georgia**

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **Stephens County Courthouse**
 STREET & NUMBER
 CITY, TOWN **Toccoa** STATE **Georgia**

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE **Historic American Buildings Survey**
 DATE **1934** FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS **Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress**
 CITY, TOWN **Washington** STATE **District of Columbia**

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

Traveler's Rest was built in two segments and until recently it was thought that the southern part was constructed by Jesse Walton during his ownership of the property. Additional archaeological and historical research indicates that the earliest part of the main structure was probably built between 1816 and 1825 while owned by James Rutherford Wily. Research indicates that the northern half of the house was built approximately ten years later than the southern half, suggesting that Devereaux Jarrett built this part. Evidence also points to an Indian structure being on the site, prior to any construction of the present house, about where the main south chimney now stands.

The structure is built entirely of long leaf yellow pine with many boards ten to twelve inches wide. It is 90 3/4 feet long and 38 1/2 feet wide including the front porch. The ceilings on the first floor are nine feet high and eight feet high on the second. There are six chimneys so located as to provide heat for the entire house.

The house was built on a large cobblestone basement which contained the kitchen, store-rooms and winecellar. Every part of the framework is numbered. In the attic you can see the numerals carved into the wood. Apparently the timbers were fitted together on the ground, marked and then assembled. Also in the end attic walls, under the gables there are circular openings about 6 inches in diameter on either side of the chimneys.

As seen on the enclosed blueprint, on the first floor, the seven large front rooms and one interior stairway to the second floor all have separate doors opening onto the long front porch. The smaller bedrooms on the rear of the house also have doors opening to the outside of the house. There are interior doors connecting all the rooms also.

The south end of the house was obviously occupied by the Jarrett family, while the rest of the house was used for business and guests. The drawing room, with the main stairway, small parlors, and the dining room, as well as some of the bedrooms at the north end of the house were primarily for the use of the inn's guests. More bedrooms and the post office were located on the second floor.

The large house was sturdily built and very simply finished, with huge exposed beams, plain paneling, and massive stone hearths. Most of the original wood has never been painted and a little carving on the main stairway and the handmade ironwork and British locks on the doors are the only decorative features. The house is sparsely furnished, but many of the pieces displayed--corner cupboards, a huge cradle made from a hollowed log, a large desk with secret compartment, sturdy wooden chairs, bureaus and beds,--were made by members of the Jarrett family at Traveler's Rest, and used there for generations.

Located north of the main house, connected by bridge with the first floor, is a restored loom house with brick basement, where silk worms were raised. East of the house is a one-room slave cabin, in very deteriorated condition, which is currently used to exhibit the excavated archeological remains of some nearby Cherokee sites. Also east of the house are two temporary buildings used as tool sheds and a mobile home used by the caretaker, none of which contribute to the national significance of the landmark. In the northwest corner of the property is a reconstructed slave cabin, built on an excavated original site. The reconstruction of several other out-buildings is planned. The whole tract is

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1816 - ca. 1870 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Since it was built ca. 1816 Traveler's Rest has been a stagecoach inn, trading post, post office, and plantation home. Once regarded as the most popular tavern between Charleston and Chattanooga on the Federal Post Road, Traveler's Rest is one of the oldest houses in northeast Georgia. It is a well-preserved example of an early tavern in a rural, frontier setting, and it is significant also for the length of its service as a stagecoach inn, until late in the nineteenth century.

History

The land on which Traveler's Rest stands in the Tugaloo Valley was formerly inhabited by the Cherokee Indians. It was included in land granted to Major Jesse Walton in 1785. Major Walton was a soldier, Indian fighter and political leader. Late in 1783 he visited Georgia and in 1784 he removed to the Tugaloo River country of northeast Georgia.

In 1789 Walton was mortally wounded during an Indian attack on the Tugaloo settlement. His land holdings and properties passed to his wife and children, and in 1813 Walton's son-in-law, Joseph Martin, acquired this property. Subsequently the Tugaloo property was sold to James Rutherford Wylly, who on August 21, 1838, sold it to Devereaux Jarrett, "richest man in the Tugaloo Valley." Jarrett, who had come to the area by way of nearby Oconee County, South Carolina and Wilkes County, Georgia, where his father had Revolutionary land grants, accumulated a great deal of land in this area.

Jarrett prospered, developed a large plantation and made additions to both ends of the house that Wylly built, providing accommodations for visitors. As traffic increased on the road past the house, Jarrett opened it to the public as a facility combining tavern, trading post, and post office. The Jarrett registers still bear the names of illustrious travelers. G. W. Featherstonhaugh, English scientist and author was a guest in 1837, and John C. Calhoun, whose plantation was only thirty miles away, was a frequent visitor. Confederate president and vice-president Jefferson Davis and Alexander H. Stephens names appear on the old guest books of that period, as does that of Joseph E. Brown, Georgia's wartime governor who spent his wedding night here. In the post-Civil war era the Jarretts continued to operate their home as an inn.

Traveler's Rest remained in the Jarrett family until July 1955 when the Georgia Historical Commission acquired the property. Since then the state has been restoring the property to the 1890 period, which they consider to be the peak of its history. They maintain Traveler's Rest as a house museum.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Perkerson, Medora Field, White Columns in Georgia (New York, 1952).
Georgia: A Guide to Its Towns and Countryside (Athens, 1940).
Historic Traveler's Rest pamphlet published by the Georgia Historical Commission.
 National Historic Landmark inventory form prepared by Horace Sheely, 1963.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 4 acres

UTM REFERENCES

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Jarrett estate once included nearly a thousand acres in the Tugaloo Valley with the manor house as the business, social and family center of the settlement. Today the main house and approximately four acres is all that is owned by the Georgia Historical Commission. The land surrounding the old inn is still heavily wooded and undeveloped. Directly west of the house is a culvert about eight feet deep. Now full of trees and underbrush, this is part of the old, long abandoned federal road (cont'd)

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

Blanche Higgins Schroer, Landmark Review Project

ORGANIZATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY OR TOWN

| |
|---|
| Landmark Designated: <u>Jan 29, 1964</u> date |
| Boundary Certified: <u>Blanche Higgins Schroer</u> STATE <u>GA</u> APR 10, 1978 date |

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

11/24/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

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CONTINUATION SHEET Traveler's Rest ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

wooded with a wide variety of trees and the far northeast section is covered with thick vines and underbrush.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Travêler's Rest ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

that brought prominence to the tavern. The Georgia Historical Commission has recently acquired a pie-shaped piece of land of less than one acre in size, adjoining their property on the west, which includes part of the old road. This section is not included on the 1968 plat map, but is part of the landmark.

As indicated on the enclosed plat map, beginning at the southeastern point of the tract on River Dale Road, the boundary runs in a northeasterly direction for 379.25 feet, the northwesterly for 190.25 feet, then westerly for 365.16 feet, then southwesterly about 235 feet along a wire fence to the north curb of River Dale Road, then in a generally southeasterly direction about 275 feet to the beginning point.