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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name Woodlane Plantation

other names/site number Raines-Kolb-Wilson House

2. Location

street & number Highway 431 South not for publication N/A
city or town Eufaula vicinity N/A
state Alabama Code AL county Barbour code 005 zip code 36027

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Elizabeth Ann Brown Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer 10 Feb 2006
Signature of certifying official Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that this property is:
- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register
 - removed from the National Register
 - other (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall 3/29/06
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)	Category of Property (Check only one box.)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>6</u>	<u> </u> objects
			<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>secondary structure/garage</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	<u>storage/tobacco warehouse</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	<u>animal facility/barn</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>secondary structure/garage</u>
<u>VACANT/NOT IN USE</u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

GREEK REVIVAL

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

roof asphalt

walls wood/weatherboard

other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition on continuation sheet/s.)

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

architecture _____
agriculture _____

Period of Significance 1852-1952 _____

Significant Dates 1852 _____

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A _____

Architect/Builder unknown _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS) N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data: N/A

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreege of Property 124 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	16	672380	3525280	3	16	673400	3524800
2	16	673440	3525280	4	16	672380	3524800

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By
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name/title Jeff Mansell, Cal Wilson & Christy Anderson, AHC NR Coordinator

organization N/A date June 17, 2001

street & number P. O. Box 1112 telephone 843-521-1075

city or town Beaufort state SC zip code 29901

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Additional Documentation
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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Property Owner
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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mrs. Anne Calhoun Wilson

street & number Highway 431 South telephone _____

city or town Eufaula state AL zip code 36027

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Name of Property: Woodlane Plantation
County and State: Barbour County, Alabama

7. Description

Located 3 miles south of Eufaula on Highway 431, Woodlane Plantation contains a main house, secondary residence, two garages, a large open shed, a barn, and a tobacco-curing shed, reflecting the continued use of the property as an agricultural enterprise since the 1850s. Originally consisting of over 2400 acres, today, the plantation contains 124 acres of timberland, pasture, fields for cotton and peanuts, and swampy wetlands. A 2-acre lake is located on the property as well as a pecan grove consisting of approximately fifty trees. The majority of the crop and pasture lands are located west of the main house. Land on either side of the main drive is devoted to stands of pine trees. The secondary residence and a garage are located north of the main entrance drive, approximately 500 ft west of the main entrance. The majority of the cropland, approximately 80 acres, is located to the west and northwest of the main house. Storage sheds and barns are located to the extreme north of the property, adjacent to planting fields. The pecan grove lies to the north, between the main house and agricultural fields.

Facing east and resting at the end of a quarter-mile long, oak-lined drive, the main house at Woodlane Plantation is a good example of a mid-19th century Greek Revival plantation dwelling. The main house is a raised cottage, resting on a brick pier with infill foundation. Originally, the house consisted of a basically square main section with a rear ell that contained a side porch, an open breezeway, and dining room. The floorplan of the main section of the house remains as it did when the house was constructed and consists of a central hall with two flanking rooms on either side. All four principal rooms are 18' square while the main hallway is 10' wide. Chimney and closets are located in the interior of the house between main rooms. When the present owners bought the property in 1944, the house was desolate and in ruins. In the subsequent 1949 restoration, the dining room was retained but the breezeway and the side porch were enclosed to provide for a rear foyer, closets, and two bathrooms. During the renovation, the present owners salvaged as much of the original material of the house as possible, including wooden exterior siding, interior plaster walls, doors, windows, sashes, mantles, and wide-heart pine flooring. The interior of the house is embellished with wide simple trim while the mantles feature a flattened Gothic arch supported by tapered piers.

The moderately pitched hipped roof of the main section is capped by a small platform enclosed with highly decorative ironwork cresting. The two brick chimneys are located in the interior. The five-bay facade consists of large, floor-length 9 over 9 double-hung-sash windows with wide cornices. The windows on the facade are 9 feet tall. The central double-leaf entrance contains etched-glass panes and decorative Rococo moldings. In 1949, the original (but ruinous) full-length porch was replaced with the central, flat-roof entrance portico with decorative ironwork supports and decorative ironwork roof cresting. The portico is reached by curving "open-arm" steps on either side of the portico. Original windows on the remaining elevations are 6 over 6, double-hung-sash. On the southern elevation, one can see where the original dining room was connected to the main house by an open breezeway. The original dining room has an interior chimney and a moderately pitched, hipped roof.

The most significant outbuilding on the plantation is the tobacco barn, the central gable roof section was constructed circa 1852. Covered with board-and-batten exterior wall material and capped with a metal roof, the tobacco barn is approximately 30 ft. tall from the foundation to the ridge line and contains a simple single plank entrance centered on the facade. Shed roof wings were attached to either side of the building in the 1940s. These wings each have large double leaf entrances. Adjacent to the tobacco barn is a large rectangular shed with a simple metal gable roof supported by wooden posts. Constructed ca. 1900, the shed is open on all sides and was used for the storage of wagons and farm equipment.

A secondary dwelling is located along the main drive and to the east of the main house. The wood frame cottage was constructed in 1949 and is a simple dwelling with a side-gable roof, continuous brick foundation, exterior chimney, three-bay facade, and a central single-leaf entrance. The facade features a bay window and paired 6/6 sash windows. A garage, well shelter, and small barn are located near the cottage. Constructed in 1949, these buildings are simple, wood frame structures with metal gable roofs. A non-contributing garage, built ca. 1970, is located behind the main house. This simple wooden frame structure has a hipped roof and a concrete foundation. Woodlane Plantation contains six contributing resources and one non-contributing resource. The acreage continues to be leased and used for raising peanuts.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7, 8 Page 2

Name of Property: Woodlane Plantation
County and State: Barbour County, Alabama

Archaeological Component

Although no formal archaeological testing has been conducted, the potential for subsurface material remains is minimal; however, subsurface remains could reveal information that may be useful in interpreting the property.

8. Statements of Significance

Criterion A: Agriculture

Woodlane Plantation is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A: Agriculture. The buildings and the land clearly reflect the continued use of the property as an agricultural enterprise from the 1850s to the 1950s. For over one hundred and fifty years, the plantation has been in continuous cultivation and has been the site of local agricultural experimentation. John W. Raines established Woodlane Plantation in the 1850s, primarily for the production of cotton and tobacco. In the 1880s, Reuben F. Kolb, who was twice State Commissioner of Agriculture and a two-time candidate for governor of Alabama lived here and farmed the plantation. It was at Woodlane that Kolb conducted experiments with watermelon cultivation, crop rotation and fertilization. In the 1920s, subsequent owners planted pecan trees and harvested the nuts as a cash crop. Today, the plantation is composed of timberland, pasture, cotton and peanut fields, pecan orchards, and swampy wetlands.

Criterion C: Architecture

Woodlane Plantation is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C: Architecture. Constructed ca. 1852, the main house at Woodlane is a good example of a Greek Revival plantation house, reflecting the popularity of that style for residential architecture in the mid-19th century. Abandoned and ruinous by 1940, the house was sensitively renovated and restored in 1949. The house retains a good degree of integrity and contains many of its original materials, including plaster walls, moldings, flooring, mantles, windows, and doors. The original floorplan is basically intact. Located on the plantation are a number of vernacular outbuildings, including a ca. 1852 tobacco curing barn, a 1900 shed, a 1949 hay barn, a well shelter and a garage.

Historical Narrative

Available records show that Tennant Lomax, a wealthy Montgomery Courtian, owned Woodlane Plantation in the early 1850s. While it is possible that Lomax may have built a house at Woodlane Plantation, the construction of the main dwelling has historically been attributed to John Raines, a wealthy cotton planter from Muscogee County, Georgia. Raines owned land in Barbour County as early as 1833. Woodlane plantation was part of a 2400-acre tract that comprised all of the land between Barbour and Chaneyhatchee Creek to the Chattahoochee River. Raines' Landing was located on the banks of the Chattahoochee River at the end of the tree-lined canopied drive. In addition to cotton, Raines also raised tobacco and subsequently, constructed the tobacco-curing barn that is still located on the property.

John W. Raines died sometime between December 1856, the date of the execution of his will, and March 2, 1858, the date his will was filed for probate. Raines' will shows that his primary concern was for the two children and the unborn child of his "servant yellow woman Mary." The children were Mary Antoinette, Sally Angeline, and Aurora Boreallis, born after Mr. Raines wrote his will. Mr. Raines directed his executors to secure the passage of an act by the Alabama State Legislature to free the children and Mary. His will dictates that if such an act could not be passed, Mary and his children were to be moved to the "Free State of Ohio." At the time Mr. Raines drafted his will, an Alabama slaveholder could not free his slaves without the consent of the state legislature. Raines' executors were ordered to sell by private sale or public auction the entire estate, including Woodlane Plantation, which was valued at more than \$75,000. The proceeds were to be held in trust by his executors for the three children, their education, and "a station in life compatible with their up-bringing." Edward B. Young and William H. Thornton, residents of nearby Eufaula, were appointed as executors while Lewis Cato, a prominent Eufaula attorney, served as Mr. Raines' attorney.

Court records reveal that Mr. Raines' brothers and sisters contested the will in the Eufaula courts. Maintaining that they could not get a fair trial in Eufaula, the siblings obtained a change of venue to Abbeville. The case raged on in the courts until 1865 when it went before the State Supreme Court. The will was finally upheld and in 1865, a state legislator, Alphaeus Baker, was paid \$3,500 to secure the freedom of Mary and the two remaining children. Probate records show that after the Civil War, Sally Angeline and Aurora Boreallis were provided for by their court-appointed guardians.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8.9 Page 3

Name of Property: Woodlane Plantation
County and State: Barbour County, Alabama

After the death of John Raines, the property became the residence of Reuben Kolb, grandson of Gen. Reuben Clarke Shorter and nephew of Gov. John Gill Shorter. After the deaths of his two parents, Kolb was taken into the home of his grandfather and he spent his boyhood in Eufaula. Kolb attended the University of North Carolina and after his graduation, settled in Macon County, near Tuskegee. After the Civil War, Kolb returned to Eufaula and resumed cotton planting at Woodlane. Due to the depressed cotton market, he also entered the wholesale grocery business and worked as a cotton factor. When the panic of 1873 swept over the state, Kolb abandoned the cotton business altogether and began raising watermelons, including a prize melon called Kolb Gem. Seed catalogues advertised the Kolb Gem as "America's most famous melon." Kolb conducted a very profitable business, raising melons and shipping the seeds. In 1888, he cut 200,000 for seed and shipped boxcars of melons to all parts of the country. A two-term Commissioner of Agriculture for Alabama and twice a candidate for Governor, Kolb was president of the Alabama branch of the Farmers' National Congress and actively associated with the Farmer's Alliance and the Alabama Division of the Farmer's National Congress.

During his tenure as Agriculture Commissioner, Kolb worked hard to promote Alabama products and in 1888, he made two trips to the Northwest to induce new settlers to come to Alabama. On the second trip, fourteen prominent Alabamians accompanied Kolb on a special railway car containing exhibits of state products and resources. Viewed by over a quarter of a million people, the "Alabama on Wheels" toured Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Ohio. In 1889, the legislature passed an act creating farmers' institutes to be under the direction of the Commission of Agriculture. The institutes met at various convenient centers so farmers could receive instruction in agriculture from lecturers selected by the Commissioner. Kolb conducted much of the work of the institutes himself, picking popular and able men as instructors. Eufaula. Throughout the 1880s and 1890s, Kolb farmed Woodlane and began his advocacy of crop rotation and fertilization of land.

After Kolb's residence, several prominent local families owned Woodlane, including the Edward Young Dents of Eufaula, who used the house as a country home and planted the acreage in cotton. Between 1900 and 1920, in the wake of the arrival of the boll weevil and the devastation of local cotton crops, scores of pecan trees were planted. Today, approximately fifty survive. In the 1930s, however, the property slipped into decline and by March of 1944, the house was almost ruinous. In March of that year, Earl and Anne Wilson purchased the property and began a major renovation/restoration of the main house and the accompanying outbuildings.

Today, the main house rests in a magnificent setting at the end of what remains of John Raines' treelined drive. Outbuildings have been well maintained and the property has been embellished with extensive plantings of azaleas, magnolia, crepe myrtles, camellias, and boxwood. Unfortunately, the house is now endangered by a proposed western bypass around Eufaula. The anticipated route would destroy the remaining tree-lined lane by cutting a 200-foot right-of-way through the middle of the property, destroying much of the setting of Woodlane as well as the 150 year-old gravel road.

9. Bibliographical Sources

Hobbs, Luella. "Woodlane, Raines-Kolb-Wilson Home, Eufaula, Alabama." n.p., 1988.

Probate Records. Barbour County Courthouse.

Rogers, William Warren. The One-Gallused Rebellion, Agrarianism in Alabama, 1865-1896. Louisiana State University Press, 1979.

Summersell, Charles Grayson. A Life of Reuben F. Kolb. University of Alabama: Special Collections. n.p., 1930.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10, photos Page 4

Name of Property: Woodlane Plantation
County and State: Barbour County, Alabama

10. Geographical Description

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for Woodlane Plantation are delineated on the accompanying tax map.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries for Woodlane Plantation were drawn to include all of the acreage historically associated with the plantation and to include as many contributing and exclude as many noncontributing resources as possible.

Photographs

The information contained in items #1-5 is the same for all photographs:

1. Woodlane Plantation
2. Barbour County, Alabama
3. Jeff Mansell
4. June, 2001
5. Negatives on file, Alabama Historical Commission

photograph #1	facade, camera facing west
photograph #2	facade, camera facing west
photograph #3	southern elevation, original dining room and main house, camera facing north
photograph #4	southern elevation, camera facing east
photograph #5	facade and southern elevation, camera facing northwest
photograph #6	interior mantle detail, camera facing west
photograph #7	interior, door and molding detail, camera facing north
photograph #8	tobacco barn, camera facing north
photograph #9	tobacco barn and shed, camera facing north
photograph #10	cottage, facade, camera facing north
photograph #11	garage and hay barn

Woodlane Plantation, Barbour Co.
Site Plan Not to scale

