

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAY 31 1977  
DATE ENTERED JAN 20 1978

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  
Jordan-Bellew House  
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
Madison Highway (Georgia Highway 83) \_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Monticello VICINITY OF 6th - John J. Flynt, Jr.  
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE  
Georgia 13 Jasper 159

CLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Robert Bellew  
STREET & NUMBER  
P.O. Box 150  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
Monticello VICINITY OF Georgia

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Jasper County Courthouse, Deed Book B-4, p. 45  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
Monticello Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Jasper County Survey  
DATE  
August, 1975 \_\_FEDERAL  STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
Atlanta Georgia

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

Built by Fleming Jordan in the decade preceding the Civil War, the Jordan-Bellew House is an example of the influence of the Italianate style in Georgia.

The Jordan-Bellew House is a two story frame structure with a covered porch surrounding the front and partial sides on the lower level and three shed rooms on the rear. Supported by inset columns and brackets under the eaves, the porch is interrupted on both sides by what were earlier referred to as parson's rooms, but the brackets and columns continue on the sides of the house. Turned balusters, elevated slightly from the porch floor, connect the columns. Large, almost floor-to-ceiling windows with six-over-nine lights are present on the porch, while the other windows are six-over-six. A plain lintel caps the second story windows and shutters flank all windows on the east front of the house. The hipped roof has wide eaves under which brackets proliferate on all sides of the house. Brick is used only in the four exterior chimneys, the milk basement, and the front steps, which were originally wooden. The front entrance is trabeated and flanked by a set of fluted pilasters. A small stoop and a trabeated door, said to have originated at the Rock House, now serve as the rear entrance.

Structural changes in the house have been few and have not sufficiently damaged its mid-nineteenth century character. The present owner bisected the central hall, converting the rear into a kitchen. Louvered overdoors once separated this area from the rear entrance; they have been removed and are in storage. The walls of the two north rooms have been moved to allow space for a bathroom and closet, but the original door moldings were reinstalled and the adverse effect of this alteration is negligible. The basic plan of the house, four rooms with a central hall and three shed rooms downstairs, is still intact.

A freestanding oval spiral staircase with turned balusters, said by family members to be imported, is the most prominent feature of the central hall. The back staircase is straight with flat balusters and is accessible from the kitchen through its original door. One of the most interesting features of the house is the unusual entablature with pilasters that frames the entrance door as well as several in the lower level. The entablature curves upward slightly and incorporates a bamboo design reminiscent of Chinese Chippendale. This motif is also repeated to a larger degree in the sliding doors between the rooms to the left of the front entrance. Other doorways are treated less ambitiously with a more common square cornered entablature and pilaster scheme. This design is present in the mantel of the shed room, while the other downstairs mantels are notable for the simple planed treatment of the surfaces that is Greek Revival in origin. The original pine floors are in good condition, as is the other woodwork in the house, evidence of the fine craftsmanship involved in the construction of the house. There are five interior fireplaces, one in each of the central four rooms and one in the large shed room. Although not open for inspection, the attic is said to be spacious and is accessible by a straight stairway on the second floor.

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1850-1860

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Fleming Jordan

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jordan-Bellew House, a fine example of Italianate domestic architecture, was constructed by Fleming Jordan, a prominent figure in the town of Monticello and a state legislator. Located on a spacious lot in Monticello, the house was built during a time of prosperity for both the town and the owner. Family members state that the construction of the house took nearly a decade, employing slaves and others on the Jordan farms. It is obvious that the house was well-constructed and commanded much planning and careful workmanship. Completed on the eve of the Civil War, the Jordan-Bellew House bespeaks a more leisurely paced society and the prosperity of its owner, who died only a few years after the war ended.

Although an earlier date is proposed for the house in John Linley's Architecture of Middle Georgia, the Jordan descendants adhere to the later dates of 1850-1860 as being the years of construction. Family tradition states that Jordan's wife, Ann, died before the house was completed. Her death is recorded as occurring on July 22, 1853, which would correspond to the period during which the house was under construction. The extensive use of brackets as seen here appears to be more likely after Linley's 1838 date with the growing popularity of pattern books advocating the bracketed style.

Fleming Jordan (1791-1868) moved to Oglethorpe County at a young age with his parents, who were natives of Virginia. In 1811 he married Ann Meriwether, the granddaughter of Thomas Meriwether, a Revolutionary soldier, and George Mathews, a former governor of Georgia. They moved to Jasper County in 1820 with their three oldest children and Jordan began to amass his large land estates. Jordan served in the Georgia Legislature as a representative from Jasper County in 1825, 1827, 1841, 1842, and 1843. At the age of retirement, Jordan began to build the large Italianate house. His wife died before its completion, leaving him to sell the newly finished house and its 165 acres to his son, Thomas, in 1860 for the nominal sum of \$2,500. Thomas Jordan died intestate in 1871, but his wife, Caroline Burney Jordan, as administratrix of his estate, lived in the house until 1907. After her death, the house and 2.19 acres passed into the ownership of her daughter, Mrs. A.T. Gray. It was bought in 1915 by A.T. Gray's brother, Lloyd, although he permitted his brother to live there until his death in 1933. Lloyd Gray sold the house after Mrs. Gray's death in 1941 to G.F. Oliphant. Subsequent owners have been Coyle Wilson, Col. D.M. Towns, and Robert Bellew, who purchased the home in 1967 from the Towns' daughter, Carolyn Phifer.

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# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Linley, John. Architecture of Middle Georgia. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1972.
- Powell, Harvey. The Jordan-Bellew House, (unpublished manuscript, 1976)
- Tabor, Evelyn Bullard. History of Jordan Home. (unpublished account, 1976)
- Turner, Mrs. G.B. Jordan Hall. (unpublished account, 1976)
- Volk, Victoria. Personal Inspection, October, 1976.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.19  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1</u>   <u>7</u>	<u>2</u>   <u>5</u>   <u>0</u>   <u>6</u>   <u>3</u>   <u>0</u>	<u>3</u>   <u>6</u>   <u>8</u>   <u>8</u>   <u>6</u>   <u>5</u>   <u>0</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

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 <u>Victoria Volk, Contract consultant</u>	DATE
<u>Elizabeth A. Lyon, Manager, Survey and Planning</u>	<u>December 23, 1976</u>
ORGANIZATION <u>Historic Preservation Section</u>	TELEPHONE <u>656-2840</u>
STREET & NUMBER <u>270 Washington Street</u>	STATE <u>Georgia</u>
CITY OR TOWN <u>Atlanta</u>	

# 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *David M. Sherman* DATE 5-12-77

TITLE Chief, Historic Preservation Section

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST: <u><i>Charles Ashenberry</i></u>	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE <u>1-20-78</u> DATE <u>1-17-78</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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The current owner has restored certain deteriorated areas of the house to the original condition, and plans to further his efforts on the second floor in the future. Nothing has been done to alter the exterior of the house and the interior alterations were made with as little disturbance to the original plan as possible.

The Jordan-Bellew House stands as a monument to its original owner, Fleming Jordan, and the style of life he embodied. The fine Italianate details and masterful construction are of architectural importance while Fleming Jordan is of historical interest as a political figure of his era.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Jordan-Bellew House, Monticello, Jasper County, Georgia  
Nomination Submitted May 23, 1977

Number 7 - Description

There are only two outbuildings located on the 2.19 acres nominated; and both of these, a small combination tool shed and garage and a building housing lawn mowers, are modern structures. There are no older outbuildings on the property.

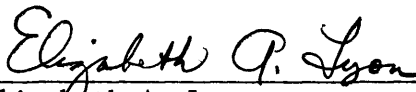
Number 10 - Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at a point on the Madison Street (S. R. 83) side of the property (south) and running southwest 209.22 feet along Madison Street to a point; thence northwest 444.05 feet to a point; thence northeast 208.72 feet along N. Warren Street to a point; thence southeast 437.9 feet to the point of beginning.

Prepared by:

Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.  
Historic Preservation Section  
Department of Natural Resources  
270 Washington Street, S. W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
(404) 656-2840

December 27, 1977

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth A. Lyon  
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

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Photo credit: David Kaminsky  
Negative filed at Department of Natural Resources  
Date of Photo; October, 1976

Jordan-Bellew House  
Monticello, Georgia

- 1) east facade
- 2) south facade
- 3) northeast corner
- 4) stairway in front hall
- 5) east entrance
- 6) left front room

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