

PH0006653

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia
COUNTY: Jones
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE: SEP 12 1974

1. NAME
COMMON: Old Clinton Historic District
AND/OR HISTORIC: Old Clinton

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Clinton
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 8th - Williamson S. Stuckey
STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Jones CODE: 169

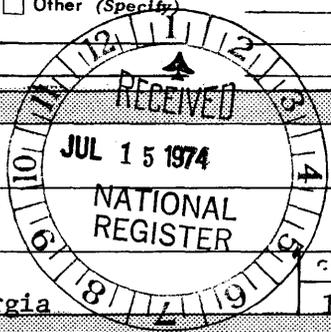
3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (Check One): [X] District, [ ] Building, [ ] Site, [ ] Object
OWNERSHIP: [ ] Public, [ ] Private, [X] Both
STATUS: [X] Occupied, [X] Unoccupied, [ ] Preservation work in progress
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: [X] Restricted, [ ] Unrestricted, [ ] No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate): [ ] Agricultural, [ ] Commercial, [ ] Educational, [ ] Entertainment, [ ] Government, [ ] Industrial, [ ] Military, [ ] Museum, [ ] Park, [X] Private Residence, [X] Religious, [ ] Scientific, [ ] Transportation, [ ] Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME: Multiple owners
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Clinton
STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Jones County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Gray
STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Building Survey
DATE OF SURVEY: 1930's [X] Federal [ ] State [ ] County [ ] Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Washington
STATE: D.C.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The town of Clinton in Jones County was designated as the county seat in 1808 and incorporated in 1809. During the nineteenth century, the town was a center of political, educational, and industrial growth in the frontier areas of the lower Piedmont region of Georgia. There have been relatively few modern buildings constructed in Clinton since then, and as a result much of the appearance of this early nineteenth century community remains.

The boundaries of the Clinton Historic District, the most significant existing part of the old town of Clinton, begin at a point (on the limits of the town which were set at a half mile radius from the courthouse square in 1821) that is approximately 500 feet from the Ross House, continuing due east for approximately 4600 feet to the other side of the circular 1821 boundaries, then southeast along this circle for around 1100 feet (as shown on the map), southwest for approximately 4400 feet to the Griswold Cotton Gin Works site, circle this site and continue north for approximately 1800 feet, then northwest for about 1200 feet to a point on the 1821 town limits, then around 800 feet along this circle to the beginning of the district's boundaries.

The Griswold Cotton Gin Company and the Clinton Academy are the two major sites without standing structures in the district. The Griswold Gin-works, in the extreme southwestern corner of the district, is sloping pasture land south of Georgia 129. The site of the Clinton Academy, further east along Route 129, is split by the highway and marked by the tall cedar trees that originally stood down the hill from the Academy at the spring head.

The frame plain style houses of the town of Clinton are arranged on grid patterned streets around a central courthouse square. There are twelve major houses still standing in this area which will be described below with numbers that correspond to their locations on the accompanying map.

Along the narrow tree lined Old Gray-Macon Highway are five early nineteenth century houses. The McCarthy-Pope House (#1), probably built by Roger McCarthy in 1809 or 1810, is the oldest house in the area built by one of the county's earliest settlers. This house and its barns are presently in a very deteriorated condition, practically covered by vines. Plans have been made to restore the house, barns, and other outbuildings. The Hutchings-Carr House (#5), built in 1810 or 1811, is a Plantation Plain type structure with additions in the rear. The interior of this house features such early nineteenth century details as panelled wainscoting and carved sunburst medallions on the mantel friezes. During the middle nineteenth century, the house was enlarged, windows widened and lengthened and the porches trimmed in the heavier Victorian tradition. The Milling-Hutchings-Kingman House (#13) across the street from the Hutchings-Carr House is a 1 1/2 story, plain house with a small one story temple form portico that was built in 1817 by David T. Milling. The Carrington-Iverson-Juhan-Edge House (#6), is located down the Old Gray-Macon Highway from the Milling-Hutchings-Kingman House. This house was built between 1821 and 1826 by John W. Carrington and became the home of Alfred Iverson, U.S. Senator and Brigadier-General of the Confederacy. It is a four room, central hall house, 1 1/2 stories tall, with small simple porches at the front, side and rear.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **Incorporated 1809--mid 19th century**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>History</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As an early nineteenth century county seat in the lower Piedmont frontier area of Georgia, Clinton has immeasurable significance in Georgia history--an evaluation substantiated by the fact that Clinton had one of the country's largest manufacturing establishments for cotton gins, one of the first female seminaries, as well as a significant number of early nineteenth century residential and public structures, several of which are attributed to the master craftsman-architect, Daniel Pratt. Presently the town of Clinton is threatened by the widening of Georgia highway 129 that runs directly adjacent to the most important visibly extant portions of Clinton and directly through portions of the ginworks and academy sites.

In 1802 the Jones County area was ceded by the Creek Indians; by 1807 the area was carved out of Baldwin County to become Jones County, for which Clinton in 1808 was designated the county seat.

The major portion of Clinton's architectural heritage was formed between 1809 and the late 1820's. The remaining residential structures of this time period are exemplary of the one-story plain style and the two-over-two room central hall plantation plain style, often with sophisticated classical details. These structures mentioned in detail on the facing page comprise one of the most closely related groups of early Georgia plain style structures still in existence. It is this style, so well represented in Clinton, that forms the basis of much early rural Georgia architecture. The presence of Daniel Pratt as craftsman and manager of Griswold's cotton gin factory, added much to Clinton's architectural sophistication. Pratt, a well known Connecticut master craftsman, known to have built and designed in the Milledgeville area, had an exceptional sensitivity to the details of classical design. His well articulated Federal porticos and delicately detailed mantels, medallions and wainscotting make him one of Georgia's foremost early nineteenth century architectural craftsmen. As a result of restoration efforts, the twelve main remaining structures have contributed much to preserving Clinton's architectural integrity.

Clinton was more than a rural residential county seat; it also achieved acclaim as an industrial and educational center. "It was probably during the 1820's that Samuel Griswold, born in Connecticut in 1790, began manufacturing cotton gins at Clinton. He came to Clinton between 1816 and 1818 and engaged in the merchandise trade for a few years. Seeing the need for a large scale cotton gin manufacturing establishment, Mr. Griswold set up shop. Statistics of the State of Georgia by George White, 1849, states 'one cotton-

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Cawthon, William L., Jr., "An Historical Perspective of Clinton, Georgia", Feb. 14, 1974; also, "Clinton Field Trip", March 2, 1974.  
 Hamilton, Anne B., compiled and prepared, "A Brief Historical Narrative of Structures and Sites in Clinton", 1974.  
 Macgregor, Elizabeth Z., personal inspection, April 19, 1974.  
 Stevens, Carole A., "A Report on Clinton", (Archival research on file at Department of Natural Resources, March, 1974).  
 Williams, Carolyn White, Jones County History, 1957, p.198, 232-253, 278, 401, 423.

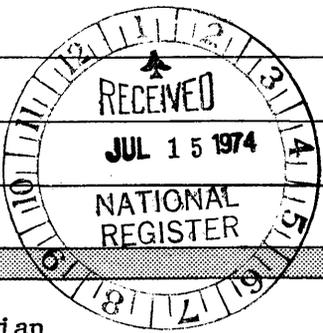
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	33° 00' 13"	83° 34' 02"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	33° 00' 13"	83° 33' 02"				
SE	32° 59' 24"	83° 33' 02"				
SW	32° 59' 24"	83° 34' 02"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: approximately 290 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Elizabeth Z. Macgregor, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources DATE: June 10, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
270 Washington Street, S.W. Room 703-C

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

**12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Joe D. Lanier</u></p> <p>Title <u>St. Historic Preservation Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>July 9, 1974</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u>                  Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>9/12/74</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u>                  Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>7-11-74</u></p>
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9 Description (continued page 2)

The Clower-Gaultney, Parrish-Hutchings-Johnson, and a side of the Blair houses face Madison Street which is north of and parallel to the Gray-Macon Highway. The Clower-Gaultney House (#14) was built circa 1816-1819 by Peter Clower who was one of the first settlers in the area. This two story frame home once featured classical fluted columns to support its full two story porch. The original fine wallpaper with scenes of London's Vauxhall Gardens, wainscoting, and mantels have been removed. This house is presently being renovated, however, with little regard to authentic restoration practices. The Parrish-Hutchings-Johnson House (#3) is a plain two story house that features a simple shed porch which ends in a closed wing on the left of the house. The Jonathan Parrishes around 1850 remodelled the house and used it as a boarding house. The interior of this house features such outstanding details as sunburst mantels and the remains of the original wallpaper that may have been designed by a French firm of Zuber. Sometime before the Civil War the two room law office of Alfred Iverson and Samuel Lowther, built in 1821, was connected to the Parrish House. The Mitchell-Smith-Bowen-Blair House (#4), also known as the Judge Bowen House, is located across the street from the Parrish-Hutchings-Johnson House. This two story frame house was built between 1810 and 1820 and added to by James Smith during the 1820's. Mitchell was important to the community as an early Jones County Commissioner, while Smith was equally important as a lawyer and one of the charter trustees of the Clinton Academy. Dr. Horatio Bowen, a later owner, was a physician as well as a cotton planter and one of the largest wine producers in the State. The Mitchell-Smith-Bowen-Blair House has exceptional details including a double porch across the front and a similar one across the back and down the vertical side of the ell. These porches are supported by a double row of four Tuscan Ionic columns across the front and six on the ell. The entablature of this house is especially fine with many Greek Revival details.

The Lockett-Hamilton House (#7), located one block north of Madison Street on the Old Clinton Wayside Road and built by James Lockett in 1830, is the youngest of these historic structures. This two story frame house features a double portico with slim, square columns, a spoke railing, and floor to ceiling windows on the ground floor. The interior of the house features simple fireplaces with carved sunburst medallions. Such details as flooring and stair changes suggest that the Lockett-Hamilton House was built in two stages.

The courthouse square (#15), adjacent to Madison Street, is the site of the two story brick Jones County Courthouse that was built in 1818 and torn down during the 1920's or early 1930's. This courthouse was the center of the business district of nineteenth century Clinton that has now disappeared. The land behind the Courthouse was also used as a town common.

The Ross House (#8) and grounds as well as the Methodist Church (#11) and its cemetery (#12) are located in the vicinity of the Old Church Road. The Ross House, attributed to Daniel Pratt, is a two room over two room, central hall house with a shed addition behind it, a central two story, one bay, temple form portico and almost identical fan lighted doorways on each story. The

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7. Description (continued page 3)

interior of this house features ceiling medallions, sunburst mantels, and finely detailed wainscoting which are indicative of Pratt's work in Milledgeville and elsewhere.

The Clinton Methodist Church, built around 1821 on the site of a church that dates from c.1810, was remodelled throughout the nineteenth century. This plain style frame structure is simple in design featuring a central square steeple with pyramidal roof. The cemetery, next to the church, is supposed to pre-date the church. It was the town cemetery in the early days of Clinton and has marked graves as early as 1790's. Many of Clinton's earliest leading citizens such as Samuel Griswold, the founder of the Griswold Cotton Gin Factory, and his family are buried here.

It should be noted here, as on the map designated by x's, that intrusions do occur within the district. However, for the most part, the modern structures are simple frame residential buildings or mobile homes whose presence is diminished when taken in the totality of the historic district.





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**8. Significance**

gin factory in Clinton goes by steam and employs at least one hundred hands. The profits of this establishment are \$20,000 per annum.' The official report of the United States Census of Agriculture for 1860 states that one of the 'earliest and most extensive manufacturing establishments of cotton gins in the United States was that of Samuel Griswold at Clinton, Georgia.'" According to Griswold's grandson, Samuel Griswold "brought from Connecticut the celebrated mechanics, the Brown family, Dwight and Israel, being the most expert in the gin business. Here Dwight Brown invented and made for Griswold machinery for punching, rounding and cutting saws and cutting teeth on them and for filing the teeth. The steel for making saws was purchased from Naylor in England and came in sheets nine or ten inches wide...and four or five inches in length. These improvements enabled Mr. Griswold to turn out many gins for which he found ready sale by sending his agents through the country. He delivered these gins by wagon in the states of Georgia and the Carolinas. Old citizens recollect well Griswold's long gin wagons with six large mules delivering his gins..." It was these gin works that Sherman's army destroyed on its march to the sea in November of 1864.

The educational facility in Clinton under the direction of the Reverend Thomas B. Slade was incorporated as the Clinton Academy in 1821. He headed the school until 1836 when he removed to Macon and was installed as the first professor of natural sciences at the new Georgia Female College there. Apparently male as well as female students were taught by Rev. Slade in Clinton, because beginning with the reports of 1835, all references to females at the Clinton Academy disappear. The total number of students listed in 1835 was 21 males. Sources state that the Clinton Academy, established in 1835 by Slade, merged in 1839 with the Georgia Female College. According to the eminent Georgia historian, Lucian Lamar Knight, Slade was responsible for writing "the first diploma ever delivered to a woman and arranged the curriculum for the oldest female college in existence." (The Academy structures no longer remain on the original site; however, the building was dismantled and moved to a site approximately seven miles west of Clinton.)

The booming frontier town of Clinton was the major town in Jones County, the second most populous county in Georgia in 1820. However, Clinton's decision not to support the location of the railroad through its town seems, in retrospect, to have signaled the period of Clinton's stagnation and decline in growth - a circumstance that is mainly responsible for Clinton's lack of development and its resulting preservation as an early nineteenth century town.

Presently the town of Clinton and its historical integrity is endangered by the widening of Georgia highway 129 and the inevitable commercialism. The towns people of Clinton, as well as noted historians and Georgia citizens, are anxious for Clinton's preservation in all aspects. A preservation plan for Clinton is presently underway with its major premise being that of Clinton as a viable, restored community that reflects architecturally, historically, and environmentally the history of an early nineteenth century lower Piedmont frontier Georgia town.

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CLINTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

Explanation of Boundary:

The basis for defining the boundaries began with the 1821 town limits, a 1/2 mile radius from the courthouse square; much of this area was deleted because of modern day intrusions. The two major intrusion areas are the power station and a brick home (adjacent to #5 on the Clinton Historic District map), both on the Old Gray-Macon Highway. Most of the other intrusions are small, single family dwellings or mobile homes along Madison Street and in the cemetery area (#12).

The boundaries surrounding numbers 5, 6, 8 and 12 on the map were set so as to assure a sound and visual buffer zone. Concerning those archaeological sites south of and adjacent to Highway 129, at this point we feel that the preservation of these sites (The Academy and Gin Works) is the major consideration; however, at the time when such archaeological investigations can be made, that investigation would reveal the exact location of the Academy and Gin Works and would reaffirm and agument presently recorded data.

Elizabeth Z. Macgregor  
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Historic Preservation Section  
Department of Natural Resources  
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Atlanta, Georgia 30334

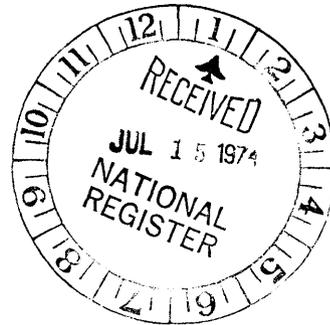
August 8, 1974

Name Joe D. Lamer  
Title State Historic Preservation Officer  
Date August 13, 1974



Key to the Clinton Historic District Map

- 1 McCarthy-Pope House
- 2 Tree shaded lane
- 3 Parrish-Hutchings-Johnson House
- 4 Mitchell-Smith-Bowen-Blair House
- 5 Hutchings-Carr House
- 6 Carrington-Iverson-Juhan-Edge House
- 7 Lockett-Hamilton House
- 8 John Ross House
- 9 Griswold Cotton Gin Company site
- 10 Clinton Academy site
- 11 Clinton Methodist Cchurch
- 12 Cemetery
- 13 Milling-Hutchings-Kingman House
- 14 Clower-Gautney House
- 15 Courthouse site



CLINTON HISTORIC DISTRICT  
1" = 865'

x = intrusions (mostly modern residential)

