

PH0002267

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Florida
 COUNTY: Jefferson
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY NUMBER: 10002267
 RECEIVED
 MAY 23 1972
 NATIONAL REGISTER

DEC 15 1972

1. NAME
 COMMON: Asa May House
 AND/OR HISTORIC: Rosewood Plantation

2. LOCATION
 STREET AND NUMBER: U.S. Highway #19 approximately 1/2 mile north of the intersection of #19 and #27 at Capps
 CITY OR TOWN: Capps
 STATE: Florida CODE: 12 COUNTY: Jefferson CODE: 065

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Originally a private residence; now deserted</u> |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
 OWNER'S NAME: St. Joe Paper Company
 STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 191
 CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 12

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Jefferson County Courthouse
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: Monticello STATE: Florida CODE: 12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE OF SURVEY: None
 DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

 Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

 Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Asa May House is a simple Greek Revival farmhouse which architectural evidence indicates was built about 1840. Many of the structural members were broad-axed (and adzed), although a circular saw was used for cutting rafters. Most of the house including structural supports, exterior siding, and columns is of cypress. Only the interior wall boards, floor joists, window sashes and floors are of pine. On the interior there is now plaster board over the horizontal wall boards. The two-story structure has a T-shaped plan and sits high off the ground on brick piers. There appear to be no major additions or alterations to the house with the exception of a tiny shed-type room which was added to the south side of the house. This apparently served as a kitchen for recent tenants. Originally the house had two long porches, one across the front of the house and another running the entire length of the north side of the wing. The latter has subsequently been screened in. On the main facade, there is a plain entablature and boxed cornice above six square columns--all of the Tuscan Order. These solid cypress columns carry the front of the roof and have their brick bases on the ground. Indentations in the two central columns indicate that the original staircase was narrower than the present one and the spindle post balustrade across the front of the porch was probably continued down the stairs as a banister. The builder's attention to detail on the house is characteristically classic. The doorway consists of double panelled doors with transom and sidelights. Windows are tall, nine light double-hung sash. The steeply pitched roof, which was originally covered with cypress shingles, now has asphalt shingles over an earlier roof of tin. The house has three dormers with six light sash windows and classic pediments. There are two very wide exterior chimneys on the north and south side which serve the front of the house and a smaller one in the rear wing which served the shallow fireplace in the warming pantry.

Archaeological evidence in the form of bricks and mortar beneath the ground indicate that there were a number of dependencies associated with the main house. Most certainly there would have been an exterior kitchen as there is no fireplace in the main house deep enough to accommodate the utensils used for cooking. In effect, as the main house of a large cotton plantation a number of dependencies would have been necessary as quarters for the overseer and the slaves, etc. The house, which was probably the work of a skilled artisan is structurally sound even today. Only the roof and front porch are in need of immediate repairs.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

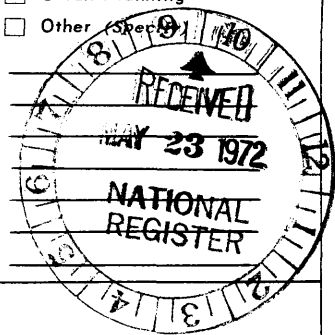
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <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) **c. 1840**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

An advertisement in the Monticello Constitution for December 1, 1881, announced the sale of personal property and the rental of a plantation by the executors of the estate of Asa May. Known at that time as Rosewood Plantation, the advertisement stated that "the plantation was in fine condition and has a comfortable and commodious dwelling house." The article further stated that there was a steam engine, a saw and grist mill and a sugar works on the property. There is no doubt that Asa May was a wealthy cotton planter and land owner in mid-1800's. There are numerous receipts available for the sale of cotton grown on his land, and at the time of his death, May owned in excess of 3,500 acres in Jefferson County alone. The largest part of that land comprised Rosewood Plantation which was his "homeplace." A lengthy litigation ensued May's death in 1878 and finally by order of the County Court of Jefferson County, Rosewood Plantation and the Scrugg's Place, another of his holdings, were rented at public auction and all personal property sold at that time.

The earliest possible date of construction which has been substantiated for this house is 1878, the year of Asa May's death. However, a thorough examination of the structure indicates that it was built somewhat earlier, probably during the decade of the 1840's. This would roughly coincide with the transfer of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ (the exact location of the house) from the United States to one Burwell McBride of Beauford, South Carolina. McBride was the grandfather of Asa May's wife, Margaret. Asa and his wife got the land in 1855 when May was appointed executor of the estate of Caroline Cole, daughter of Burwell McBride. Caroline had received the land from her father in 1848. Although the actual date of construction of the house remains a matter of conjecture, available evidence indicates that

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Beauford, South Carolina. Beauford County Courthouse, Office of the Probate Judge. Beauford County Records, (Subgroup: Will of Burwell McBride).
 Monticello, Florida. Jefferson County Courthouse, Office of the County Judge. Jefferson County Records, (Subgroup: Deeds).
 Monticello, Florida. Jefferson County Courthouse, Office of the County Judge. Jefferson County Records, (Subgroup: Estate Papers and Will of Asa May).

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 |
| NW | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | N 30° | 24' | 52" |
| NE | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | W 83° | 54' | 40" |
| SE | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | | | |
| SW | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than an acre

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Diane D. Greer, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives, History, & Records Mgmt. DATE: January, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
Department of State - The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 12

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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:

National State Local

Name: *Robert William*
 Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: May 15, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12/15/72

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 12/8/72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| STATE Florida | |
| COUNTY Jefferson | |
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| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | DEC 15 1972 |

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE.

Burwell McBride built this house shortly after receiving it from the United States on March 4, 1836.

Regardless of the actual date of construction, the house remains an interesting example of "Carpenter Classic" architecture. There is no doubt that it was an exceedingly fine house for that area at that time and due to its sturdy construction of cypress and heart pine, it remains in excellent condition today.

