

PHD 363731

 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DATA SHEET 2
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 21 1976

DATE ENTERED SEP 15 1977

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
1 NAME
 HISTORIC *** Wm. Alexander House *Alexander - Cleveland House*

AND/OR COMMON

Cleveland House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1 1/4 mile east of S985, 3 1/2 miles NE of Ruckersville NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Ruckersville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

10th - Robert G. Stephens, Jr.

STATE

Georgia

VICINITY OF

CODE

13

COUNTY

Elbert

CODE

105

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:
4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Cade Cleveland

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2

CITY, TOWN

Elberton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia 30635

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Elbert County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Elberton

STATE

Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Elbert County Architectural Survey

DATE

November 1975

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

DNR/Historic Preservation Section

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia

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

The Cleveland House, built by William Alexander in 1791, is located about 1 1/4 mile east of road S985 and 3 1/2 miles northeast of Ruckersville near the Savannah River in Elbert County. The house, a Plantation Plain style, is a two-story frame structure with enclosed porches and double hipped exterior end chimneys.

Presently, the exterior of the building is covered with a mask of red composition siding which obscures the window on the second floor and protects the original facade material which is weatherboard siding. Those windows that are visible are nine-over-six paned sash apertures. A one room appendage, also covered with red composition siding, is attached to the northern end of the house. This house, which sits on piles of stacked granite, is capped with a simple gable roof. The double hipped exterior end chimneys have an American Bond brick pattern with the ratio of three rows of stretchers to one row of headers. The bases of the chimneys are stepped and the stacks are decorated with a string-course. Inscribed on the chimney bricks is the barely legible date 1791 and the initials "W.A."

Typical of the Plantation Plain style, the house has a two-over-two room plan and enclosed front and rear shed porches. Each porch is partitioned into two rooms giving the main floor a total of six rooms, not including the appendage. Access to the two rooms on the second floor is provided by an enclosed staircase which apparently was originally entered from the front porch portion that was later enclosed as a room. The two rooms enclosed from the front porch area are separated by a narrow entrance hall which leads to the door providing access to the center east room.

Inside the 10 foot high, two main rooms on the first floor, twelve inch wide horizontal pine sheathing covers the walls. A beaded wainscot extends from the 6" baseboard to the 33" chair rail. Rooms of the enclosed front and rear porches have considerably lower, 7 foot ceilings with exposed beams and narrow paneling without beaded wainscot, chair rails or baseboards. All doors in the Cleveland House are six panel "cross and bible" type except the one to the stairs which is a batten door. The two segmental arched fireplaces, flanked by windows on each side, have 5 1/2 foot high pine mantelpieces with simple posts supporting a narrow plan frieze and shallow shelf.

Large trees shade a small area between the dirt road and the unoccupied Cleveland House which sits on a hill near where Coldwater Creek empties into the Savannah River. Two frame outbuildings are on the site: one 40' northeast and the other 50' southwest of the house.

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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cleveland House of Elbert County is of statewide architectural significance as a relatively intact 18th century plantation plain style house. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of the plantation plain, which can be described as a frame, two story, two-over-two room gabled roof dwelling with exterior end chimneys. The house is of local importance as an early frame house in Elbert County history.

A date carved in the old, now crumbling, west chimney is difficult to read and has been interpreted both as 1741 and 1791. According to oral tradition the house was built in 1741. A newspaper article in 1965 quoted William Early Cleveland, who at the time had been living in the home for 68 years, as saying "it was his belief, and that of the old folks ahead of him" that the date (1741) refers to the years in which the house was built. This date is highly improbable, if not inconceivable, since Georgia was only founded in 1733 and to manage such a sophisticated structure so far inland in unsettled territory seems unlikely.

A later more plausible date of 1791 is based on close examination of the inscribed date and initials "W.A.", plus research with deeds and courthouse records. The location of the house, which sits on a hill near where Coldwater Creek empties into the Savannah River, does not argue against this later 18th century date, since the earliest settlers in this section followed the Savannah up from the sea.

This plantation plain is called the "Cleveland House" because it has been in that family for 132 years; but more recent evidences seems to suggest that the house was built by William Alexander, probably in the last decade of the eighteenth century. Not a great deal is known about William Alexander, except that he purchased the 200 acre land platt on the Savannah River from John Doss, a Revolutionary soldier, in 1789 for 50 lbs of silver. In 1790, Alexander purchased some adjacent land - thereby expanding the estate to 400 acres. William Alexander owned this property until 1796, when the estate was purchased by John McGowen. McGowen sold it to Thomas Rowzer, the husband of Louisa Cleveland, in 1844.

The structural and stylistic integrity of this plantation plain has been well preserved. Today the Cleveland house sits unoccupied in its original site at the end of a long dirt road on Cade Cleveland's property. It is located within the Richard B. Russell Dam and Reservoir Project; but is not threatened as it will be well situated above the waters of the new lake.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atlanta Journal, "Bricks Hint House Was Built in 1741", January 30, 1956.
 Elbert County Courthouse Records.
 Macgregor, Elizabeth, Gail Golsen, Pat Cooper, inspected site, June 1976.
 Nichols, Frederick, Early Architecture of Georgia, Chapel Hill, 1957.
 Stowers, Mr. & Mrs. S. A.; interviewed June, 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3 approximately
 UTM REFERENCES

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning point is on a dirt road 240 feet southeast of Ga. highway S985, 1 mile northeast of Ruckersville city limits. From here go due east for 150 feet, then due north for 500 feet, proceed due west for 150 feet, and then 500 feet due south to beginning.

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

Maurie Gail Golsen, Intern (Elizabeth Macgregor, Architectural Historian, Consultant)

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Dept. of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Section

August 25, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

270 Washington Street, S.W., Room 703-C

404-656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Atlanta

Georgia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

[Signature]
 DAVID M. SHERMAN

DATE

TITLE

Chief, Historic Preservation Section

12-9-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: *[Signature]*
 W. S. MUSTA
 CHARLES HERRING
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE 9/15/77
 DATE 9-9-77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET Photographs ITEM NUMBER PAGE

Cleveland House, Elbert County
Photographs by: David J. Kaminsky
Date: June, 1976
Negatives filed at: Department of Natural Resources

1. Front facade, looking southeast.
2. Parlor, looking east.
3. Mantel in east parlor, looking east.