

PH0031780

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia
COUNTY: Putnam
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE OCT 1 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Singleton-McMillen House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Singleton House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: ~~Located approximately one mile south of the intersection of Highway 16 and 142, on the right fork of a dirt road.~~ SW of Eatonton off GA 16

CITY OR TOWN: ~~Seven miles west of Eatonton vicinity~~ 10th - Robert G. Stephens, Jr.

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Putnam CODE: 237

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Earl McMillen, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:  
170 Copeland Road, N.E.

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Putnam County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Eatonton STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

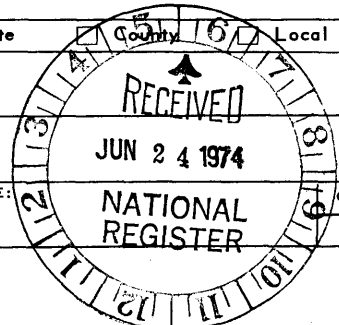
TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



STATE: Georgia

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(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

Built c. 1854, the Singleton-McMillen House near Willard community, seven miles from Eatonton, is a Greek Revival plantation house that once served approximately 1500 acres of farmland.

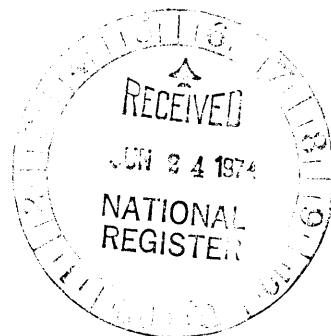
Slightly raised, the house with four exterior chimneys has no basement, but has one and a half stories with a central pedimented, simple Doric columned portico that spans three of the five bays. This portico area, unlike the remainder of the weatherboard structure, has beaded, flush siding. The pilaster framed entrance design consists of transom and side lights with vertical panels under the side lights. High entablatures are above all windows as well as the door design. Pilasters also correlate to the end columns and also define the building's corner edges. On the side facades are broad eaves, unusual to this area, two round headed arched windows and high entablatured floor-to-ceiling windows identical to those on the front facade. To the rear of this originally almost square structure was added two rooms, these probably added shortly after the original building date, thus making it L-shaped. One other change to the house's exterior was the addition of the semi-circular brick steps and iron railing. According to an 1893 picture there were originally simple straight-designed wooden steps without railings.

The interior of the house is that of a four-room central hall plan, with two rooms added to the rear and two rooms off the upstairs central hall. All downstairs rooms are seventeen feet square; all mantels are original with simple pilaster supported mantel shelves; all window and door trims are pilaster framed with simple entablatures. The ceiling height in these four downstairs rooms are 14 1/2 feet; window heights in all rooms and the hall chair rail are the result of present day elaborative interpretation. Originally center ceiling medallions occurred in the first floor front bedroom, parlor, as well as the hall; these are no longer extant.

Upstairs, both bedrooms, without benefit of fireplaces, are entered from the central hall. The two windows in each of these rooms are round-headed arched windows that extend to the floor; original storage-closet space in the eaves is also found in each of the two rooms.

The house is set in a field area with a few simple shrubs, a tall holly tree, several hardwoods and a walkway in front of the house. A few modern conveniences such as the patio, a gazebo and pool in the rear were added to the landscape of this present-day weekend-farm residence.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**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.1854

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>History</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input checked="" 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

The Singleton-McMillen House is an outstanding cultural example of a modest, yet classically sophisticated plantation residence that was originally owned by prominent Putnam County citizens, David and Rebecca Singleton.

Architecturally, the Singleton-McMillen House shows the hand of a craftsman who had been exposed to the classical building style as well as the new Italianate Revival. Oral tradition states that a man named Suiter was responsible for its construction. The 1860 census supports this claim to some extent that a 24 year old carpenter named S. J. Suiter from "North Carolina with \$50.00 stayed with the William Spivey family in the 371st district of Putnam County" when the census was taken. The simplicity and the elegance of the beautifully proportioned rooms, the uncluttered mantel-pieces, the long windows, the Italianesque round headed second story windows, the elaborate ceiling medallions and moldings used in the rooms suggest that the builder must have been very knowledgeable. The subtle yet decisive acknowledgement of the coming of the Italianate Revival that is present in the round headed second story windows and in the wide overhanging eaves combined with the classical floor plan and the portico are evidences of the builder's skill. Either the Singletons or the builder was responsible for bringing in a Parisian plasterer to render all the plaster work including the cornices and ceiling medallions in the house. He is reported to have lived with the Singletons for two years while he created these plaster works. The house retained these plaster works and basically its original appearance but in a run-down condition until the early 1970's when it was bought and restored by Earl McMillen, the present owner.

Rebecca Griggs Singleton was given the money to purchase the land through a provision in the will of her father, Robert Griggs. This will, made on September 2, 1854, gave Rebecca and her sister Mary equal shares in the family plantation or the amount of money necessary for them to build and equip their own plantation if either one decided to move elsewhere. According to the terms of Griggs' will, this land was to be reserved for the sole use of Rebecca and Mary, and would not automatically pass to their husbands when they married. Since Mary was under age when her father died, her share of the land was put into trust until she became of age or married. Rebecca, who was probably engaged to David Singleton by then, decided to buy her own plantation. She bought land across Murder Creek from the family that was being held in trust for her sister and was thus entitled to the adjacent sections of the family plantation. The Singletons bought a great amount of other land in the district. This dark brown topsoil and the stiff

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Georgia Historical and Industrial, Department of Agriculture, 1901.  
 Macgregor, Elizabeth, personal inspection, December 19, 1973.  
 Reid, D. S., telephone interview by Elizabeth Macgregor, Jan. 24, 1974.  
 Singleton, David, A Guide to Immigration-Putnam County, Georgia, and Its Resources, 1895.  
 Stevens, Carole, Courthouse research of Putnam County will, deed, tax, and census records.  
 White, George, Statistics of Georgia, 1849

**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 ° 18' 03"	83 ° 29' 50"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	33 ° 18' 03"	83 ° 29' 20"				
SE	33 ° 17' 41"	83 ° 29' 20"				
SW	33 ° 17' 41"	83 ° 29' 50"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 60

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Elizabeth Z. Macgregor, Architectural Historian; Carole Stevens, Researcher

ORGANIZATION: Historic Preservation Section, Dept. Natural Resources

DATE: March 13, 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**

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 Mary Gregory Jewett

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date March 28, 1974

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

[Signature]  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/1/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 7.20.74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Georgia	
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance

red clay subsoil formed good land for growing cotton as well as grains, potatoes, peas, sugarcane and grasses. According to White's Statistics of Georgia of 1849, cotton was the main crop in this region during the nineteenth century. Since Griggs' will also provided for money for Rebecca to buy livestock for her plantation, their plantation probably included this also. In 1874, Singleton bought a half interest in a mill on the Little River, indicating the possibility of the amount of grain crops in the area.

Huge and prosperous plantations such as that of the Singletons caused the growth of a farming village called Avelina Post Office. This village first appeared as a Georgia post office in an 1859 postal guide. It is also mentioned in the 1860 edition of the Gazetteer of Georgia by the Reverend Adiel Sherwood. The Avelina post office is marked on the 1869 Putnam County land lot map, an 1870 map made by J. R. Butts and A. G. Butts. Sometime between 1882 and 1895, the name of the town was changed to Willard. In a prospectus of Putnam County that David T. Singleton edited in 1895, he lists his home as Willard, Georgia. Nothing else is known about the town or the buildings that were part of its life when the Singletons owned most of the land in the district. It was probably a typical mid-nineteenth century farming village which tended to die out after the Civil War. Only a few scattered structures make up what is known as the Willard community today. The Singleton-McMillen House is one of these scattered structures and is approached by a winding dirt road through a field much the same as it was when the Singletons lived there.

