

FILE NO. 1024-0018
12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only
received MAY 18 1982
date entered
JUN 17 1982

1. Name

historic Jane Donalson Harrell House

and/or common

2. Location

SR 1975 off U.S. 84

street & number County Road 1975, 0.6 miles South of U.S. highway 84 N/A not for publication

city, town Jakin vicinity of ~~Congressional District~~

state Georgia code 013 county Early code 099

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Joseph Q. Harvey

street & number Route 1

city, town Jakin vicinity of state Georgia 31761

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Early County Courthouse

city, town Blakely state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records None

city, town state

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

The Jane Donalson Harrell House, built Ca. 1855, is a two-story Plantation Plain style house with Greek Revival features, located on its original four acre lot, southwest of Jakin, Georgia. The house stands, not far from the Chattahoochee River, on flat, cleared, riverbottom land, historically and presently used for agriculture.

The Harrell House is a two-story, gable-roofed, frame structure with a one-story shed, ell and porch to the rear. It was originally weatherboarded; this original weatherboarding is presently covered with aluminum siding. The house rests on a brick pier foundation which has been infilled with poured concrete. A pedimented portico on the five-bay front has four square columns with small Ionic capitals. The trabeated front doorway has side and transom lights. Above, an unadorned doorway leads onto a small cantilevered balcony. Twelve over twelve, double-hung, sash windows with simple wood surrounds are flanked by shutters. The house has three exterior brick chimneys, one attached at each end of the two-story section of the house, the third at the south end of the shed-roofed area to the rear.

The interior features a two-over-two with central hall arrangement, with the shed-roofed area and ell to the rear. A small room, not original to the house, has been added to the north rear side. A quarter-turn stairway is located in the rear shed. Three of the four front rooms retain their original mantels; the one in the south, first floor parlor was replaced during a late 1950's renovation. Original hand-planed wide pine planks still cover the floor, ceilings and walls. Plaster or wallpaper has never been applied.

The yard is landscaped with grass, large oak and cedar trees, crepe myrtle bushes and other shrubbery. Several non-historic agricultural outbuildings are located behind the house.

BOUNDARY

The boundary of the nominated property circumscribes the original four acre tract given to Jane Donalson Harrell by her brother, Reuben Donalson in 1855. This boundary was selected in the absence of other clean historic or environmental boundaries associated with the house.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The Historic Preservation Section has determined that the photographs taken in December, 1980 still represent the character and appearance of the property. No significant changes have been made since that date.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) medicine

Specific dates Ca. 1855 Builder/Architect Unknown ^{white 170} _{1715 NC} family history

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Jane Donalson Harrell House is historically significant in terms of architecture as a good example of the Plantation Plain type with Greek Revival-style detailing which spread across Southwest Georgia during the first half of the nineteenth century. It is one of the few remaining antebellum structures in Early County. It is the first house to be built on this tract of land following the opening of the area to white settlement in 1820, making it significant in terms of exploration and settlement. Its educational significance stems from the location in the house, during the post-bellum years, of a plantation school for white and black children. During the second half of the nineteenth century a doctor's office and infirmary were located in the house, making the property significant in terms of medicine. In terms of family history, the property is significant in that it was originally given to and owned by a woman, independently of the assets of her husband. These areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register criteria A and C.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

The Harrell House is a well preserved example of the vernacular Greek Revival style plantation architecture that spread across Georgia from east to west during the first half of the nineteenth century. The incorporation of a pedimented portico and front doorway with Greek Revival treatment to a basically Plain style house is typical. The Harrell House is one of the few remaining antebellum structures in Early County and is the best extant example in this style. The house is in excellent condition and the aluminum siding and other late 1950's renovations do not substantially affect the overall character, appearance and integrity of the house.

EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT

Southwest Georgia was opened for white settlement with the 1820 land lottery. The Harrell House, built about 1855, was the first house to stand on Land Lot 242, District 26, Early County. The house was built on a four acre tract given to Jane Donalson Harrell by her brother. It became the center of an extensive cotton plantation which was run by the Harrells and, following Jane Donalson Harrell's death, by a daughter's husband, Dr. Augustus D. Shewmake.

EDUCATION

At one period during the Shewmakes occupancy, a live-in governess held school in the house for both white and black children from the plantation. The school is of particular interest because black and white children were rarely taught together at this time in Georgia.

(continued)

FORM NOT REPRODUCED
UNLESS THE EXACT REPRODUCTION

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 4 acres
Quadrangle name Donalsonville West, GA- Ala.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 6	6 9 1 1 4 0	3 4 4 0 4 1 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G							

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the nominated property coincides with the boundary of the original 4 acre tract in the southwest corner of Land Lot 242, District 26, Early County, given to Jane Donalson Harrell in 1855.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title A) Erick D. Montgomery / Historic Preservation Planner
B) Carolyn S. Brooks / National Register Researcher

organization A) Southwest Georgia APDC
B) Historic Preservation Section, GA Dept of Natural Resources

street & number A) P.O. Box 346
B) 270 Washington St., S.W.

city or town A) Camilla
B) Atlanta

date January 25, 1982
telephone 912/336-5616
404/ 656-2840

state Georgia

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 *Elizabeth A. Lyon*
Elizabeth A. Lyon date 4/21/82

title State Historic Preservation Officer

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
Entered in the National Register date 6/17/82

Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

Significance

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MEDICINE - *nd*

Jane Donalson Harrell's daughter married Dr. Augustus D. Shewmake in 1852. In Ca.1870 when they gained possession of the Harrell House, he moved his medical office there and subsequently added a wing to the south side of the house which he used as an infirmary. This addition has since been dismantled. Typically, Dr. Shewmake practiced medicine, performing medical services by contract for local plantations, in addition to running the family's plantation.

FAMILY HISTORY

Land Lot 242, District 26, Early County, on which the Harrell House is located, was purchased in 1842 by Reuben Donalson. The majority of the lot was later secured by his brother, but in 1855 he gave the four acres in the southwest corner to his sister, Jane Donalson, wife of Dempsey Harrell. It is significant that she alone retained legal possession of the property, as per her marriage contract in which she and her husband agreed to keep their respective properties to themselves. This is most unusual in nineteenth century Georgia.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Continuation sheet Bibliographical

Item number 9

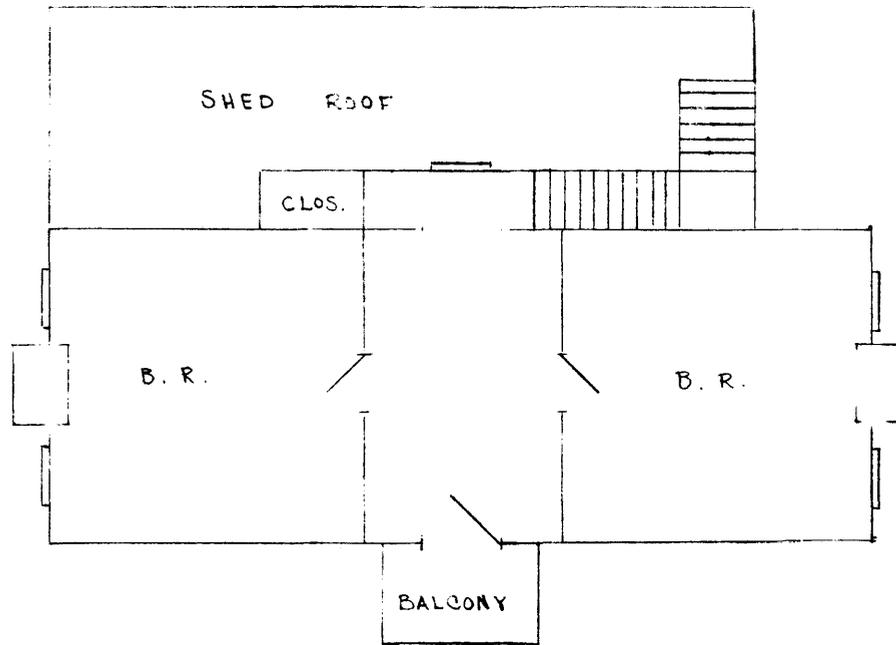
Page 2

Collier, Lucy, Transcript of talk given at the U.D.C. meeting in early 1950s.
(Lucy Collier, a black servant in the Shewmake household, attended the plantation school.)

Early County Historical Society, Collections of Early County Historical Society,
Vol. 1 (1971), Vol. 2 (1979).

Standifer, Dr. J. G. (Comp.) History of Magnolia Lodge, No. 86. Free and Accepted
Masons of Blakely, Georgia 1844-1926.

U. S. Census Records, Early County, Georgia.

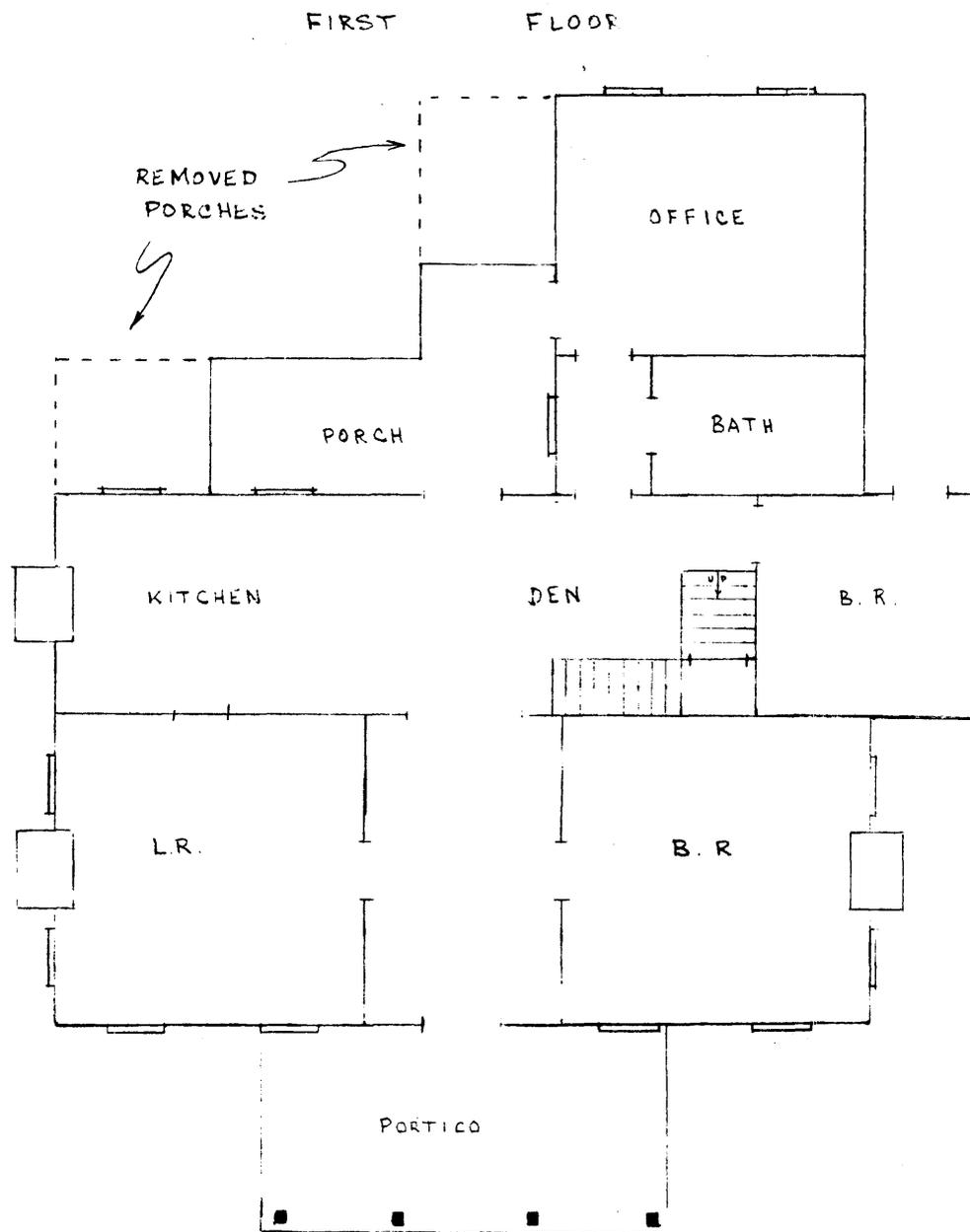


SECOND FLOOR

JANE DONALSON HARRELL HOUSE
JAKIN, EARLY COUNTY, GEORGIA

HARRELL HOUSE (CA. 1855)
JAKIN, GEORGIA
DRAWN BY BETTE L. MONTGOMERY
SCALE: 1" = 10'
DIMENSIONS APPROX
SEPT. 23, 1980

JANE DONALSON HARRELL HOUSE
JAKIN, EARLY COUNTY, GEORGIA



HARRELL HOUSE (CA 1850)
JAKIN, GEORGIA
DRAWN BY: ERICK MONTGOMERY
SCALE: 1" = 10'
DIMENSIONS APPROX.
SEPT. 23, 1980