

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 27 1982

date entered JUN 28 1982

1. Name

historic Mays-Boddie House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number GA Georgia Highway 109 N/A not for publication

city, town Mountville *me.* X vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Georgia code 013 county Troup code 285

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. James Boddie

street & number Rt. 4 Greenville Road(Georgia Highway 109)

city, town LaGrange N/A vicinity of state Georgia 30240

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Troup County Courthouse

city, town LaGrange state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Field Survey:
title Troup County, Georgia has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date December, 1977 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Mays-Boddie House is located in rural Troup County on Georgia Highway 109 near Mountville. The house, which lies in land lot 98 of the 6th district of Troup, was built some time between 1828 and 1830 while the property was owned by Mr. William Mays.

The exterior of this 1½ story frame house is unpainted and plain. It is capped by a cedar shingle gable roof with boxed cornices and sits on a fieldstone pier foundation. There are four exterior brick chimneys which have been stuccoed. Construction techniques and building materials here are characteristic of early domestic structures in Georgia; mortise and tenon construction and heart pine are used throughout. Windows are 9/9 and symmetrically arranged. There is a simple shed porch covering the front of the house and a small porch with Victorian details on a rear appendage.

The interior of the Mays-Boddie reflects its successive building phases and development. The original c. 1830 structure was a small double pen house with a two over four plan. A partially enclosed stairway leads from the rear of the house to the bedrooms above. Walls are finished with hand planed wide pine boards. The technique of graining or painting the wainscoat to simulate a wood type was employed. The mantels are heart pine, six feet in width, four feet in length. In 1858 the Boddie family purchased the house and several additions were made. A dining room was added to the west and a kitchen connected by a breezeway projected south of the dining room. A small annex was made at the rear of the house to the southwest. The dining room walls are plastered and there are closets on each side of the fireplace.

Originally, there were at least six outbuildings associated with the property including a carriage house, barn, chicken house, smokehouse, and well. Today, the only remaining outbuildings are the well, which is located a few feet west of the house and the barn, which is separated from the house by Georgia Highway 109.

The Mays-Boddie House and grounds still exhibit signs of a once flourishing formal garden. On the grounds near the house are dwarf boxwood, holly trees, cedars, oaks, and magnolias. The remainder of the nominated property was once used for farming but currently has returned to its natural state. The house sits near the highway on the northern one-third of the property.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input checked="" 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/
<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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1828–1830, 1858

Builder/Architect William C. Mays

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mays-Boddie House, built in 1828–1830, is significant in the areas of architecture, exploration and settlement, landscape architecture, and historic archaeology. It is significant in architecture because the house exhibits early construction techniques and materials. It is one of the few extant examples of the early venacular double pen frame house once popular in this region. It is significant in exploration and settlement as one of the earliest homes in Troup County. It was built shortly after the land was acquired from the Creek Indians in 1827. The property is significant in landscape architecture as it displays features of carefully planned planting and boxwood designs. It is significant in historic archaeology because there is evidence of outbuildings that are no longer extant as well as remains of a formal garden. These areas of significance support property eligibility under the National Register Criteria A, C and D.

The Mays-Boddie House is architecturally significant because it exhibits many features of early domestic architecture and techniques used on Georgia's last western frontier. The materials used on the house were gathered on the site, such as heart pine and field stone. Mortise and tenon construction or pegged construction seen here was common to early buildings. The massive logs supporting the structure are hand hewn. The technique of graining the wood was practiced by itinerant craftsmen who traveled from house to house. Interior finish boards were hand planed. This house is known as one of the oldest homes in Troup County and the only known extant double pen house.

In terms of exploration and settlement the house is important as one of the first homes built after the land was acquired from the Lower Creek Indians. In 1827, Troup County was divided into land lots of 202½ acres which were distributed by the land lottery of 1827. Land Lot 98 was drawn by David Archer. He sold it to William Mays that same year for \$118. Mays sold the property with the house in 1830 for \$300. The property changed hands eleven times from 1830 to 1859 when George V. Boddie purchased the property and enlarged the house. It has stayed in the same family since 1859. The property is located near the town of Mountville which is located at the intersection of an old Indian trail. The Mays-Boddie house is now being carefully restored by Mrs. Catherine Boddie Kendall.

The property is significant in landscape architecture because of the many remains of a formal garden in front and to the west of the house. The house sits on a knoll separated from Georgia Highway 109 by a low stone wall. Large magnolia trees, cedar trees, and holly trees were planted in the front yard. A pathway lined on each side by ancient boxwood leads from the house to the area that was once the carriage house. It is said the Boddie family loved flowers and the garden was planned so that all yellow flowers bloomed at the same time, as did the white blooms and other colors.

The historic archaeological significance of this property is derived from the knowledge of the family, which has owned the house and grounds for over 120 years, of various outbuildings that have disappeared. Those whose locations are known are the carriage house, chicken house, and smoke house, all of which would have been present on a large farm or plantation in the 19th Century. Other outbuildings whose locations are not known by the family would also have existed by necessity within the nominated property, including slave quarters and later tenant houses, out houses, and other barns.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Boddie, James, Interview in Mountville, August, 1980.

Davidson, William, Brooks of Honey and Butter, Vol I, Alexander City, AL., Outlook Publishing Co., 1971

Smith, Clifford, History of Troup County, Foote and Davies Co., Atlanta, GA., 1933.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 198 acres

Quadrangle name Mountville

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	6
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6	9	3	1	6	0
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3	6	5	7	9	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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6	9	4	1	0	0
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3	6	5	7	9	3	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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6	9	4	1	0	0
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3	6	5	7	0	0	0
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D

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6	9	3	1	6	0
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3	6	5	7	0	0	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is marked on the enclosed Tax Map 636 as parcel number 33, the portion of Land Lot 98 owned by the present owner. This property constitutes the remaining intact acreage of the original 202 1/2 acre land lot upon which this frontier house was built.

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

A) Mark Clayton Callaway, Intern to Historic Preservation Planner Maurie Golsen
name/title B) Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr. (SHPO contact person)

A) Chattahoochee-Flint APDC
organization B) Historic Preservation Section, DNR date A) September, 1980
B) April 8, 1982 (edited)

A) P.O. Box 1363
street & number B) 270 Washington Street, SW telephone A) (404) 882-2956
B) (404) 656-2840

A) LaGrange
city or town B) Atlanta 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

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5/10/82

For NPS use only

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

Delores Byers

Entered in the
National Register

date

5/28/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration