



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Cleveland, Stephen Beech, House

other names/site number "The Lodge"

**2. Location**

street & number West side County Rd. 35, 2.4 mi. South of US 84 not for publication n/a  
city or town Suggsville (unincorporated) vicinity x  
state Alabama code AL county Clarke code 025 zip code 36482

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide x locally. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Harold A. Brown 6-22-99  
Signature of certifying official Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria.  
(      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

- I hereby certify that this property is:
- entered in the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.
  - determined eligible for the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.
  - determined not eligible for the National Register
  - removed from the National Register
  - other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

for \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Edson H. Beall 7-29-99

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property  
(Check only one box.)

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> sites
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> structures
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Number of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Historic and Architectural Properties of Clarke County, AL

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone

roof Asphalt

walls Wood: flushboard, weatherboard

other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition on continuation sheet/s.)

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**8. Statement of Significance**  
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**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.) n/a

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance** c.1860 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates** c. 1860 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder** variously attributed

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**  
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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- Previous documentation on file (NPS)** N/A
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
  - previously listed in the National Register
  - previously determined eligible by the National Register
  - designated a National Historic Landmark
  - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
  - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

- Primary location of additional data:** N/A
- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other state agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**  
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**Acreage of Property** 7 acres

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	<u>16 434760</u>	<u>3497220</u>	3	_____
2	_____	_____	4	_____
	<u>See continuation sheet.</u>			

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**  
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name/title Johnathan A. Farris/Survey Coordinator with Trina Binkley/NR Reviewer

organization Alabama Historical Commission date 3/3/99

street & number 468 South Perry Street telephone (334)242-3184

city or town Montgomery state Alabama zip code 36130-0900

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**Additional Documentation**  
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**  
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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Ann & M. Palmer Bedsole

street & number 3280 Dauphin Street #127-C Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Mobile state Alabama zip code 36606

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section 7 Page 1

Name of Property: Cleveland, Stephen Beech, House  
County and State: Clarke County, Alabama

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**Architectural Description**

The Stephen Beech Cleveland House is a one-story frame house with an L-shaped plan and prominent front and rear recessed porches. The house is situated in a wooded lot on a flat ridge top above and to the east of the Bassett Creek bottoms. The longer wing of the house faces south, while the shorter wing faces east. The gabled ends of the wings are oriented to the east and north. The two wings join underneath a hipped roof at the southeast corner of the house. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The foundation piers are of limestone ashlar, and the three interior chimneys (with two fireplaces each) are also constructed of limestone blocks. The southern and eastern elevations of the house are completely sheltered by the porches and are clad in flush board siding. The gabled ends of the house are clad in weatherboard. The back porch, which extends to the rear of both wings, shelters walls of flush board siding. Two additions from the later 20th century are enclosed rooms on the back porch, sheltering modern bathrooms.

The columns supporting the roof of the south and east porches rest on a wooden porch floor and are octagonal in section. They sport heavy cornice moldings as bases and capitals. The sides of the column shafts are ornamented with a pair of flutes which join just beneath the capitals in Gothic arches. Jigsaw work brackets with turned suspended finials ornament the cornices of the south and east porches. Also on the south and east porches vase-shaped jigsaw work ornaments railings which tie the columns together, as well as the wooden steps that provide access to the porches. The rear porch is supported by octagonal columns with simpler moldings and no flutes. The rear porch cornices lack brackets but are broken into rectangles by narrow frets. The rear porch railings possess simple rectangular slats rather than jigsaw work. The south and east porch ceilings are ornamented with alternately raised and flush wood panels, the raised panels joining in squares differentiated by simple applied molding. The rear porch lacks the moldings that differentiate the intersections of the raised panels into squares. The rear porch steps are modern and have simple rectilinear railings. The gabled ends possess returned gable cornices, and the north gable end displays a diamond-shaped vent near its peak.

The three bays on the east elevation are arranged with single leaf central doors, surmounted with three pane transoms, and flanked by two six-over-six sash windows. All the bays on the south elevation are arranged likewise, except for the most easterly bay (i.e. the south elevation of the corner room), which is simply punctuated by a larger single leaf door with both a six pane transom and three pane sidelights. The door and window surrounds on the exterior come to a slight peak at an obtuse angle. The window/door/window rhythm is also present on the rear elevations. The west gable end contains two six over six sash windows. The north gable end elevation displays three six over six sash windows (one of which was part of the porch enclosure addition) and a central three light transom which originally capped a door which has subsequently been sealed up.

The corner room (the most southeastern room) possesses one of the two most elaborately appointed interiors in the house. A low paneled dado runs the entire perimeter of the room. The walls above the dados are covered with Rococo Revival wall paper which was at some point painted over white. The ceiling is elaborately paneled, with a broad, boxy cornice piece with frets on its underside and dentils on its vertical side, and with the rest of the ceiling laid out in rectangular recessed panels. The mantel against the west wall is basically a simple post-and-lintel Greek Revival composition slightly elaborated with a curved mantel shelf and a squat ogee overmantel board. The door and window surrounds are Greek Revival in aspect, with lintel pieces that jut out beyond the rest of the surrounds and have obtuse peaks. The corner room originally had no interior access to the other rooms in the house; the doors on the west and north walls of the rooms likely date from the turn-of-the-century and have very plain surrounds. The actual door leaf in the west wall, which leads into the double room, is difficult to date exactly, as it seems to have been constructed out of two early six over six pane window sashes.

The middle room on the east wing possesses low paneled dados, Greek Revival door and window surrounds like in the corner room, and a simpler mantel with an obtuse peaked overmantel board. The ceiling decoration is also simpler in this room, being composed solely of rectangular recessed panels. The room seems to have been the master bedchamber, as it has a closet and a set of built-in drawers in the northeast corner, which appear to be original. The door on the closet, the drawers, and the dado are all painted with faux graining.

The room which is farthest north was probably the dining room, as it contains a built-in two-tiered cupboard or china safe. This room is probably the second most elaborated in the house. It has a very simple Greek Revival mantel, but also

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Name of Property: Cleveland, Stephen Beech, House  
County and State: Clarke County, Alabama

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has recessed rectangular paneling on both walls and ceiling in addition to paneled dados. The door between the master bed chamber and dining room is original and is surmounted by a three light transom. The door and window surrounds are Greek Revival like elsewhere in the house.

The double room which is the middle space in the south wing originally was divided by folding doors, but these have been removed to storage in recent times. The room possesses faux grained paneled dados and simple faux grained mantels at either end with obtusely peaked overmantel boards. The ceiling is ornamented with very simple rectangular recessed panels, not unlike those on the back porch. The door and window surrounds on the north and south walls are Greek Revival in forms similar to the rest of the same vintage in the house. The east and west interior doors, however, apparently date to the turn-of-the-century, indicating that the double rooms only possessed exterior circulation with the rest of the house. A modern kitchen island now occupies the center of the western half of the double room.

The most western room is the simplest in the house, with a very simple mantel, paneled dados, and simple rectangular ceiling panels. The interior door and window surrounds are like the ones of c. 1860s vintage elsewhere in the house, and are present on both south and north walls despite the rear bathroom addition. This room only was accessible from the exterior, like the double room and the corner room.

One non-contributing outbuilding exists on the property. It is a wood frame front gabled venison processing shed, with exposed rafters under the eaves, flush board siding, and a bank of screen windows around its entire exterior.

Although the Stephen Beech Cleveland House has experienced recent alterations in the form of the kitchen island and two rear bathroom additions, these have by and large been in the form of additions which seem to meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and have resulted in little loss of original fabric.

No archaeological work has yet been done on the land associated with the Stephen Beech Cleveland House, but potential exists for significant archaeological remains relating to plantation life on the very eve of the Civil War. A starting place for archaeological investigation might be the location of the original kitchen, which probably spatially related in some way to the back door of the dining room on the north gable end, still indicated by a transom.

Although no archaeological survey has been conducted in the vicinity of the Stephen Beech Cleveland House, the property has potential to yield significant information about Civil War-era planter domestic life in Southwestern Alabama.

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Name of Property: Cleveland, Stephen Beech, House

County and State: Clarke County, Alabama

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**Statement of Significance**

The Stephen Beech Cleveland House is significant under criterion C for architecture. The Cleveland House embodies many of the distinctive characteristics belonging to planter class houses built on the eve of the Civil War in South Alabama. These characteristics include both a blending of mass-produced and also hand-made details and a mixture of classical and picturesque architectural motifs. The mid-19th century in Alabama witnessed a gradual change from a reliance on the skills of the craftsman to a greater usage of manufactured elements in the ornamentation of houses. The Cleveland House bears witness to this trend, with jigsaw-work railings, cornice brackets, and sashes undoubtedly coming from a sash and blind manufactory or other workshop specializing in the mass production of architectural elements. The mantles, closets, and door surrounds on the other hand, have an idiosyncrasy about them that points to the hand of a skilled on-site craftsman. The ceiling panels, dados, and octagonal porch columns are not immediately apparent in their origin. The ceiling panels and perhaps the dados probably were ordered to set dimensions and fitted to the eccentric shape of the house by the master-builder on site. The origin of the columns is obscure. No columns with the same details as those of the Cleveland house have been identified in the state, which may point to the hand of the master builder rather than a regional manufacturer. The competition of two differing stylistic predispositions is witnessed throughout the house. The simplicity of the mantles throughout the house is largely Greek Revival in inspiration. The window and door surrounds also make extensive use of the Greek Revival motif of a lintel board which is peaked at an obtuse angle at the top and protrudes beyond the jambs. The jigsaw work railings and cornice brackets on the other hand have their origins in popular picturesque styles of the third quarter of the 19th century in America. These elements may have had origins in Gothic Revival or Italianate styles, but even very sophisticated settings may simply have been called "in the Bracketed Mode."<sup>1</sup> The unique columns of the Cleveland House may have had more specific Gothic Revival inspiration, with their routed flutes meeting in pointed arches, their octagonal shape, and their heavy cornice-molding type capitals. The combination of classical and picturesque motifs seems to have corresponded roughly with the hand-made and manufactured details. The Greek Revival details are usually hand-made, presumably because that is the mode in which the regional master-builders and joiners of the day were trained. The more stylish picturesque details seem to be largely incorporated into the design of the house in elements easily obtainable through a regional manufacturing source.

**Historical Summary**

This house was built by Stephen Beech Cleveland slightly before or during the year 1860 in the then bustling planter community of Suggsville.<sup>2</sup> Now the Cleveland House and a few cemeteries are all that remain of a town that was a commercial and social center for area planters and home to a buggy works and a tannery.<sup>3</sup>

Stephen B. Cleveland was born in Clarke County, Alabama, around the year 1827 to prosperous South Carolina born planter James C. Cleveland. Little is known of his early life, but he is alleged (according to local tradition) to have gone to California during the gold rush. At any rate, he returned to Clarke County by 1855, where he married Eliza Davis Creagh on March 5th--a move which clearly enriched him more than any Gold Rush experiences he may have had.<sup>4</sup> Eliza Davis

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<sup>1</sup>See Downing, Andrew Jackson. Cottage Residences. Design V. Here, the specific reprint reference used is Downing, Andrew Jackson. Victorian Cottage Residences. (New York: Dover Publications Inc., 1981). pp. 89-95.

<sup>2</sup>Finlay, Louis M. "Suggsville and Manila," in The Clarke County Historical Society. Historical Sketches of Clarke County, Alabama. (Huntsville, AL: The Strode Publishers, Inc., 1977). p. 353.

<sup>3</sup>ibid., p. 362.

<sup>4</sup>Barefield, Marilyn Davis. Clarke County, Alabama, Records 1814-1885. (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, Inc., 1983). p. 32.

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County and State: Clarke County, Alabama

Creagh was the daughter of Gerard Walthall Creagh, prominent Suggsville planter, merchant, and politician.<sup>5</sup> Gerard Creagh was elected as a Democrat from Clarke County to the state legislature as a Representative in 1819, 1820, and 1838, and as a Senator in 1839, 1842, and 1847.<sup>6</sup> Eliza was the eldest of his children to live to adulthood, but was, however, only 13 years old when her father died in November of 1849. After marrying 18-year-old Eliza, Stephen Cleveland began to embark upon a career in public service, perhaps in the footsteps of his father-in-law. In 1857 Cleveland held the office of "Superintendent of Free Public Schools."<sup>7</sup> In 1859 he ran for and obtained a seat in the state senate.<sup>8</sup>

About 1860, Cleveland had constructed the house that remains today. The 1860 Federal Census allows a glimpse into the familial landscape of Stephen Cleveland and may also give a clue to the identity of the builders involved in the project. In the census, Cleveland is listed as a lawyer and shares his household with his wife, two young children, and 18-year-old brother-in-law Thomas B. Creagh.<sup>9</sup> At this point, Cleveland owned forty-two slaves and 16 quarters, although how many of these people were his and how many were his wife's inheritance is unknown because of Eliza's *femme coverte* legal status.<sup>10</sup> Cleveland's young Creagh brother-in-law owned an additional twenty slaves and three quarters--substantial property for a youth.<sup>11</sup> Stephen Cleveland's own extended family occupied a series of dwellings about five houses down the street. His seventy-three-year-old father, James, lived in a house with his youngest daughter Caroline and retained possession of the substantial number of 48 slaves as well as a more modest \$5,000 worth of real estate.<sup>12</sup> Next were Stephen's brothers, farmer Jeremiah A. Cleveland and "engineer" Alonzo B. Cleveland, each possessing basically only one slave family and little or no real estate.<sup>13</sup> Finally, a person who was probably Stephen's step-brother from his father's first marriage, James T. Cleveland, completed the family compound with \$3600 worth of real estate but no slaves.<sup>14</sup> The fact that Stephen Cleveland's siblings have such small estates and his elderly father maintained control of most of the family's resources reinforces the inference that much of his property he acquired from his wife's estate. Cleveland's house was in fact built on land that was acquired through his marriage. Since Cleveland was located several houses away from the row of residences occupied by his father and siblings, it is both probable that he and his family had moved onto the old Creagh lot and in all probability were occupying the house that exists today, very probably in a not yet fully completed form. The builders of Stephen Cleveland's house may also appear in the 1860 census. Living directly next door to Cleveland's father, a Maryland-born "master mechanic" named Samuel Cole presided over a household containing his wife, five young children, a 24-year-old apprentice (of undetermined familial

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<sup>5</sup>Owen, Thomas M. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography. (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1921). Volume III, p 421.

<sup>6</sup>Brewer, Willis. Alabama: Her History, Resources, War Record, and Public Men. (Spartanburg, SC: The Reprint Publishing Company, 1975). p. 181.

<sup>7</sup>Ball, Rev. T. H. Clarke County, Alabama, and its Surroundings. (Grove Hill, AL: Clarke County Historical Society, 1973 [orig. published 1882]), p. 243.

<sup>8</sup>Brewer, Willis. Alabama: Her History..... p. 181.

<sup>9</sup>1860 Alabama Federal Census, Clarke County household 1081.

<sup>10</sup>1860 Alabama Slave Schedule.

<sup>11</sup>ibid.

<sup>12</sup>1860 Federal Census, Clarke Co. household 1075.

<sup>13</sup>ibid., Clarke Co. households 1073, 1074.

<sup>14</sup>ibid., Clarke Co. household 1072.

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Name of Property: Cleveland, Stephen Beech, House

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relation) named John J. Cole, an Arkansas-born 20-year-old apprentice named William Westerfield, three male slaves aged 25 to 32, a female slave and her three young children.<sup>15</sup> The make-up of Cole's household suggests a master builder's workshop. The immediate proximity of Cole to the clump of Cleveland households may indicate that he had in fact taken up Stephen Cleveland's old residence while working on the new one. This possibility is further supported by the fact that vacant houses were noted in the Clarke County census, but there are none listed near the Cleveland family neighborhood that would indicate Stephen Cleveland's former residence.

The census evidence is the closest thing to a documentary "smoking gun" that would point to an attribution for the house's authors. Traditionally, the house has however been attributed to the master builder Alexander Bragg of neighboring Wilcox County. This attribution seems to be based solely on the use of octagonal columns and on the mixture of Greek Revival elements and picturesque brackets. These elements are, granted, characteristic of Bragg's architectural predilections, but they are also to some extent generally characteristic of buildings on the eve of the Civil War in South Alabama. New mass-produced picturesque details were married to the skills of artisans trained in a more classically inspired style and the houses of Bragg and Stephen Cleveland's house are both examples of this broader phenomenon. Additionally, in purely stylistic terms, the columns of the Cleveland house, with their routed fluting meeting in pointed arches and their vigorously molded capitals, are more elaborate and in some respects look more to the picturesque revivals than the columns on all but possibly one of the houses produced by Bragg. The brackets and porch railings, similar to those on several of Bragg-attributed buildings, were likely mass-produced elements and could have come from the same manufacturer as those on the Bragg buildings. In the end, the preponderance of, albeit circumstantial, evidence suggests that Samuel Cole and his workshop were the authors of the Stephen Cleveland house.

It would be negligent not to address the unusual plan of the Cleveland House. Its one-room deep L-shaped plan more or less wrapped in verandas is not typical of the vernacular forms characteristic of early domestic architecture in the region. The exterior circulation exemplified by the building and its low, spreading form have been variously attributed to influences from the trans-Mississippi experiences of Cleveland or to influence from Gulf Coast creole architecture. Other examples of similar forms occurring in more similar social circumstances do however exist in the Western Black Belt region of Alabama. The Daniel R. Wright House (NRHP 4/2/82), the Littleberry Pippen House (NRHP 4/2/82), and even more particularly the Iredell P. Vaughn House (NRHP 4/2/82), all in the planter town of Eutaw in Greene County, are all formal cousins of the Cleveland House.<sup>16</sup> There is some sense that the cultural hearth of such house forms may have been South Carolina.<sup>17</sup> This house form, with its copious constructed shade and maximized cross-ventilation, would have been an ideal climatic adaptation for the long scorching summers of South Alabama.

In many ways, the plan of the Cleveland House is as noteworthy as the exterior form. Originally, the only two rooms with shared interior circulation were the best bedchamber and the dining room, which formed the north wing of the house. They are equal in size and would have made the best use of the prevailing west to east winds for ventilation. These rooms were almost certainly the spaces used everyday by Stephen Cleveland, his wife, and their toddler son and infant daughter. The elaborately appointed corner room was undoubtedly a sort of formal parlor, and its lack of circulation with the master bedchamber may have insured some level of domestic privacy. The most western room is not as elaborate as the other individual rooms and would not necessarily have been intended for highly visible social usage. The presence of Thomas Creagh, just then reaching his legal majority, in the Cleveland household suggests that this room may well have been intended as his chamber. As a youth who was still very much a part of his sister's family on the one hand, but as a man with planterly aspirations on the other, he probably required a room that was in the house but that also allowed some separation from the young nuclear family of his sister. As a bedchamber, or private space, it would have had no internal circulation with the "double parlor" space for privacy reasons as well. The "double parlor" linking the western room with the corner room had a function which is not at all immediately apparent from the scanty documentation available. It seems almost certainly a social space,

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<sup>15</sup>ibid., Clarke Co. household 1076. and 1860 Alabama Slave Schedule.

<sup>16</sup>see Lancaster, Clay. Eutaw: The Builders and Architecture of an Antebellum Southern Town. (Eutaw, AL: The Greene County Historical Society, 1979). Chapter 11.

<sup>17</sup>Gamble, Robert. Personal Communication to the author. 3/25/99.

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Name of Property: Cleveland, Stephen Beech, House

County and State: Clarke County, Alabama

perhaps even a modest "ballroom," which could also on demand be transformed into two rooms to accommodate overnight guests. Such a grand social space would indeed have been uncharacteristic of Clarke County domestic architecture. It would, however, be in keeping with the rising political and social aspirations of Stephen Cleveland and his young wife when the house was built.

Stephen Cleveland had little time to enjoy his new house before the Civil War erupted. Cleveland had organized a company of cavalry for the Confederacy dubbed "the Suggsville Greys" by March of 1861.<sup>18</sup> The troops were traditionally mustered from the porch of the Cleveland house itself. Stephen Cleveland was the captain of the company, while his brothers Alonzo and Jeremiah were third lieutenant and private in the company respectively. By October of 1861, the unit was in Memphis, Tennessee, and reorganized into the "Clarke County Rangers," with Stephen Cleveland as its captain and his young brother-in-law Thomas Creagh as third lieutenant.<sup>19</sup>

By the time that Cleveland returned from the war, his young son had died and Suggsville had begun its decline into oblivion. The Clevelands are not found in the post-bellum Clarke County Federal Censuses, but Stephen Cleveland and his descendants kept possession of the property into the twentieth century. Traces of Stephen Cleveland's post-bellum activities on the property are found in the Clarke County Agricultural Censuses. In 1870, production on Cleveland's farm is still very much on the plantation model. Of the 2900 acres Cleveland owned, 700 were cultivated and yielded large quantities of cotton, corn, and sweet potatoes.<sup>20</sup> At this time, he also owned 40 cows and cattle and 20 hogs. By 1880, however, Cleveland had sold or otherwise transferred a great deal of acreage, shrinking the plantation to 585 acres, of which 20 were tilled and 60 were in pasture, the rest being woodlands. In 1880, Cleveland's property produced six only bales of cotton, in comparison to the 104 bales of twenty years before.<sup>21</sup> He also owned slightly fewer bovines, but had increased his hogs to 50 in number, and also was raising 75 poultry. By 1880, Cleveland had also planted an orchard of 30 peach trees and was selling wood cut from his forested lands, including 125 cords in that year. This seems to suggest during the 1870s a shift from more labor and management intensive agricultural practices to more passively productive livestock and arboreal maintenance. At Cleveland's death the property passed to his daughter and only heir, Lillian Cleveland Dahlberg.<sup>22</sup> Lillian in turn passed the property on to her daughter, Dora Dahlberg Young. As the town declined, so did the social life that surrounded the initial construction of the house. Convenience took priority over distinction of public and private space and doorways were cut to allow complete interior circulation between the rooms of the structure. Bathrooms were added in the later twentieth century to make the house comfortable for modern occupancy. Today the house, though passed out of the hands of Cleveland descendants, serves as a secondary residence as it has for all but about the first decade of its existence.

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<sup>18</sup>Ball, Rev. T.H. Clarke County, Alabama, and its Surroundings. pp. 263-272.

<sup>19</sup>ibid., pp. 272-274.

<sup>20</sup>see 1870 Alabama Agricultural Census, Clarke Co.

<sup>21</sup>see 1880 Alabama Agricultural Census, Clarke Co., p. 11.

<sup>22</sup>see Clarke County Historical Society. Historical Sketches of Clarke County, Alabama. p. 354.

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Name of Property: Cleveland, Stephen Beech, House

County and State: Clarke County, Alabama

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**Bibliography**

1870 Alabama Agricultural Census.

1880 Alabama Agricultural Census.

1860 Alabama Federal Census.

1860 Alabama Slave Schedules.

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10/photos Page 8

Name of Property: Cleveland, Stephen Beech, House  
County and State: Clarke County, Alabama

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**Geographical Data**

**National Register Boundaries**

The National Register boundary for the Stephen Beech Cleveland House should include all lands described in the description for Clarke County Property 37-03-05-0-000-006.010 that fall north and west of the Suggsville Road (County Road 35). This would consist of approximately 7 (seven) acres within the northeast quarter of Section 5, Township 7N, Range 4E.

**Boundary Justification**

The National Register boundaries of the Stephen Beech Cleveland House were chosen to encompass the area within the current legal property boundaries which is associated with the house as its immediate yard.

**Photographic Log**

Cleveland, Stephen Beech, House  
Clarke County, Alabama

Photographer: Johnathan Farris

Date: February 4, 1999

Location of Negatives: Alabama Historical Commission

1. South elevation of house, looking north
2. South and east elevations of house, looking northwest
3. East elevation of house, looking west
4. North elevation of house, looking south
5. East elevation of nc outbuilding, looking west
6. Easternmost door on south elevation, looking north
7. Porch view on south elevation, looking west
8. Southwest porch corner, looking northeast
9. Corner room mantel, looking southwest
10. Corner room dado, northwest corner looking northwest
11. Corner room door and window surrounds (interior), east wall looking east
12. Corner room ceiling paneling, southeast corner, looking southeast
13. Closet and built-in drawers, middle room of east wing, looking north
14. South wall of northern room in east wing, looking south
15. Mantel on eastern wall of double room in south wing, looking east
16. Mantel on eastern wall of westernmost room of south wing, looking east