

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 97000301

Date Listed: 4/17/97

**Gachet, Benjamin, House
Property Name**

**Lamar
County**

**GEORGIA
State**

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

M. J. M. King
for Signature of the Keeper

4/17/97
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 8

This nomination is amended to delete Criterion A, for social history, since there the documentation does not provide enough context to evaluate the significance of the 1931 DAR marker that commemorates a mythical visit of Lafayette to this house in 1825.

The marker is also reclassified as non-contributing to the significance of the property.

These changes have been confirmed with the Georgia SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name GACHET, BENJAMIN, HOUSE
other names/site number Gachet House

2. Location

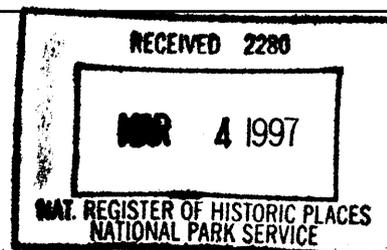
street & number GA 18, 3 miles west of Barnesville
city, town Barnesville (X) vicinity of
county Lamar code GA 171
state Georgia code GA zip code 30204

(N/A) not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal



Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property:

| | <u>Contributing</u> | <u>Noncontributing</u> |
|------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| buildings | 1 | 0 |
| sites | 0 | 0 |
| structures | 0 | 2 |
| objects | 1 | 1 |
| total | 2 | 3 |

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: n/a

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination 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 meets the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Mark R. Edwards
Signature of certifying official

2/24/97
Date

Mark R. Edwards
State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Mag M. [Signature] 4/17/97

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

[Signature] Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER/Plantation Plain

Materials:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| foundation | stone piers |
| walls | wood |
| roof | wooden shingles |
| other | n/a |

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Gachet House is a good example of a very early Plantation Plain type frame house with Federal mantels and other original details. The house is two-story, I-house form, with original brick end chimneys as well as a chimney on the rear addition, front shed-roofed porch, and a rear shed-roofed range of rooms.

The front porch has two end rooms or preacher's/traveler's rooms with entrances originally only onto the porch. On the rear of the house the original storehouse has been attached by a covered passageway. The house retains its original heart pine clapboards, stone piers, graduated columns, and two original windows.

The interior is arranged in a symmetric central-hall plan, two rooms over two, with smaller front and rear rooms. There is an original stairway. The original tongue-in-groove heart pine floors, walls and ceilings survive. All wall and ceiling boards are 12 inches wide. Original Federal-style mantels survive on five interior fireplaces, along with an original chair rail. The house has hand-hewn log floor joists joined by wooden pegs. A large, original support beam has been left exposed in the kitchen.

The house is situated in a rural setting at the intersection of two major county roads, as it always has been, on a hill. There is a large cedar in the yard and a boxwood-lined flagstone walk.

Outbuildings include the now-attached historic store building, and non-historic well house (1950s) and car port. The house has been recently restored, with a wood shingle roof being added, and only minor additions such as closets and bathrooms. As part of the restoration, late-19th century added materials were removed. There is

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a Georgia Historical Marker dedicated in 1954 in the front yard as well as a Daughters of the American Revolution Marker/boulder from 1931 in the yard. Both of these relate to the now-disproved claim that Lafayette visited this house in 1825.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

ARCHITECTURE
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance:

ca. 1826-1829

Significant Dates:

1828

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Unknown

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Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Gachet House is significant in architecture as one of the finest and most intact examples of the Plantation Plain type house in Georgia. It features the intact overall form, floorplan, and characteristic end profile of the Plantation Plain vernacular house type. Also, it retains original Federal mantels, fireplaces, and original materials, stairs, doors, and moldings. The house has two travelers' rooms, a feature that is characteristic of this type of house. The house's infrastructure of original hand-hewn timbers and pegs is an excellent example of how a house of this era was constructed. The Plantation Plain type of house was identified as an important type of vernacular house in Georgia in Georgia's Living Places (1991), a context report on architecture. Only 1% of the houses surveyed in the state date from before 1830. Only one third of these are two-story houses and only 15% of these are Plantation Plain type houses. Thus only 5% of the pre-1830 houses in Georgia are Plantation Plain type houses. The Gachet House is thus an important, surviving, and remarkably-intact example of an important house type in Georgia that once proliferated, but has become quite rare.

The Gachet House is significant in social history for the long-standing association or myth attached to the house that it was was the site of a stop-over during the triumphal visit of the Marquis de Lafayette to the United States in 1824-1825. As the "nation's guest," Lafayette stayed two years and was enroute from Milledgeville, Georgia, then the state's capital, through western Georgia on March 29, 1825. Well-meaning family members even got a wrong date (March 19) for the erroneous attribution as to when Lafayette supposedly stayed at the home of M. Gachet. The legend, as explained later, was introduced into Georgia's "places to see and commemorate" only early in the 20th century. By 1931, the legend had reached permanent memorial status for it was then that the local Daughters of the American Revolution, who had named themselves the Lamar-Lafayette Chapter, placed a marker on the property to commemorate the non-existent event. Since that commemoration, the story has appeared in the county history, published in 1932, numerous newspaper and magazine articles even in recent years, and was again commemorated by a State Historical Marker in the 1950s. In comparing the myth to the actual diary kept of Lafayette's travels, it was clearly impossible for him to have veered fifty miles off his route from Milledgeville to Macon to the Creek Indian Agency on the Flint River and on to the Chattahoochee. Lafayette's journey is meticulously detailed and leaves no room for an error of this magnitude. The house is significant,

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though, because of this legend and how it has permeated the subsequent historical research and publicity about the house, until finally being disproved with this nomination.

National Register Criteria

The nomination meets National Register Criterion C because it is an excellent, intact, example of the plantation plain type of antebellum farm house so prevalent in Georgia, built in the earliest era of that type house. It retains original Federal-style mantels, floors, doors, and many windows, and has been restored back to its original form.

The nomination meets Criterion A because it fits into the broad patterns of American history because it has become, erroneously, a place of veneration for one of America's favorite people, the Marquis de Lafayette. The myth of his visit has been attached to this house officially since 1930, and will be impossible to completely detach since it is documented, however erroneously, in the county history, two metal markers, and untold numbers of newspaper and magazine articles. This myth reflects America's need to honor its heroes in even the most remote corners.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance is for the dates during which the house was most likely built, the purchase of the lot in 1826 from the estate of Dr. Bayard, through the purchase of the lot by Gachet in 1828 and to the latter's death in 1829.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

Contributing buildings include the main house. Non-contributing buildings are the well-house and carport. A contributing object is the 1931 DAR marker, even though the information is erroneous. The 1954 Georgia Historical Marker, also erroneous, is a non-contributing object.

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Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

The Benjamin Gachet House is located on land between the Ocmulgee and Flint Rivers. This land was opened for white settlement after the removal of the Creek Indians, with the Land Lottery of 1821. The Gachet House sits on Land Lot 8. In order to understand the true history of this house, two paths must be taken.

The first path is to trace the history of the land from its distribution through the 1821 Land Lottery by the State of Georgia until its legal ownership by Benjamin Gachet and on to the present owners. This gives us a profile of the property, a skeleton of its history.

The second path is to trace the history of the Gachet family, both predating their ownership of this house, as well as after it left the family. As part of this, we must address the long-standing tradition, which is now refuted, that the Marquis de Lafayette came by this house or even stayed here during his visit to Georgia in March, 1825. While two permanent markers and numerous modern newspaper accounts (since 1930) attest to the story, the truth is, as will be shown, Lafayette came no closer to this land lot than Macon, over 40 miles away, and much further by 1825 standards. It is also most likely that Benjamin Gachet himself was still a legal resident of Jones County, and thus not even in Pike County when Lafayette visited Georgia in March, 1825. It is also probable that he and his father did meet Lafayette, either in Milledgeville or Clinton, in 1825, but not at this house.

Path One: the History of the Land:

The State of Georgia opened the area that is now Lamar County for settlement, after the Indian removal, by holding the Land Lottery of 1821. In this lottery the land on which the Gachet House now sits and adjoining land was distributed. Here is a brief history of the two lots owned by Benjamin Gachet:

I. First land owned by Gachet (1825-1828) (house not on this lot)

LOT 9 (District 8): 202 1/2 acres (standard size)

1821

This lot was won in 1821 by Cullen/Collin W. Alexander, of Jones Co., and granted to him, Oct. 23, 1824.

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1824

Cullen/Collen W. Alexander, of Jones Co., sold the same to Albert J. and Sarah Alexander on Oct. 27, 1824. [Source: Pike Co., GA, Deed Book A, p. 497; recorded Jan. 30, 1826] Cost was \$500.

1825

Albert J. Alexander of Fayette Co., GA sold the lot to Benjamin Gachet, of Jones County, on Dec. 12, 1825. Cost \$450. He sold only one lot. [Source: Pike Co., GA Deed Book B, pp. 94-94, recorded Jan. 28, 1827] 202.5 acres (exactly one lot) Bordered on Potato Creek; and as part of the same instrument Sarah Alexander relinquished her dower right in the land to B. Gachet, same dates.

1826

Tax Digest. Pike County, GA
Gachet, Benjamin. 13 slaves, 202 1/2 acres, Pike Co., on Potato Creek, borders Brown, 8th district, Lot 9.

This tax record indicates that Benjamin Gachet only owned this one lot as of 1826, and not the property, lot 8, on which the house was built.

1828, Oct. 7

Benjamin Gachet, of Pike County, to James Whatley, of Pike County, on Oct. 4, 1828; \$300 (Pike County, GA, Deed Book B, p. 390, recorded Jan. 31, 1829).

With this sale, Benjamin Gachet sold Lot 9, and was obviously in the process of buying Lot 8, where the house was either already standing, or was soon to be built. The money received in the sale of lot 9 was a major part of that needed to purchase lot 8, within the same month, see below.

II. The House Lot: Purchased by Gachet October, 1828, owned at his death in January, 1829 and by the widow to 1844:

LOT 8 (District 8): 202 1/2 acres, (standard size)

1821 Land Lottery, won by Dr. Nicholas S. Bayard, of Savannah, a member of a prominent coastal family. Dr. Bayard died in Savannah, aged 47, on October 30, 1821. (Marriages and Deaths by Warren.) It was granted to Dr. Bayard's heirs on April 1, 1823.

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Due to Dr. Bayard's death, the lot fell into his estate, which, then as now, took several years to process. The Savannah (Daily) Georgian announced an estate sale and the lot was sold on February 8, 1826 at public auction in Savannah. The buyer was George H. Bryan, of Pike County, who was already living in the area and was probably waiting to purchase the land, which by then was already at a major rural crossroads. The price was \$50. This low price could indicate several things, but most likely that the Bayard estate and Bryan had already come to an agreement, that Bryan was perhaps leasing the property until the time the estate could legally dispose of it, and possibly that Bryan had already begun the house. (Pike County, GA Deed Book B, pp. 175-177. The deed was recorded July 18, 1827.)

Another significance of this sale is that it took place a full year after Lafayette's visit to Georgia and shows that the first owner of this property after Lafayette's visit was not Gachet, but Bryan.

1827

George H. Bryan, by then of Muscogee County, to James Whatley on May 24, 1827; \$800 [Source: Pike County, GA, Deed Book B, p.324-325, recorded August 30, 1828]

James Whatley (1786-1856) was a major figure in the formative years of Pike County, and before that, Monroe County, its parent county. Whatley purchased lot 107 in the 10th District of Monroe in 1822 and lot 24 in the 8th of Monroe, later Pike, very close to the Gachet House site, also in 1822, establishing his early presence in the region. (Monroe County, GA, Deed Book A, pp. 102 and 103.) When Pike County was created from Monroe County in 1824, Whatley sold the lot on which the Town of Zebulon, the new county seat, was built. (Pike Co., Georgia, Sesquicentennial 1822-1972, p. 4). He was a major landowner in the county, as evidenced by the many deeds in his name. He was also treasurer of the Pike County Academy in 1827. He and his mother are buried at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church Cemetery. Whatley's ownership of the Gachet House lot appears to be an interim one.

At one point, Gachet gave his address for the return of a lost/stolen horse "at the place known as Whatley's Store". (Georgia Journal, Milledgeville, GA newspaper, November 7, 1827.) Since this would be after Gachet moved to this area, it would seem that Whatley's Store was the major landmark in the area.

George H. Bryan, who owned the lot before Whatley, was an early settler of Zebulon and probably involved in other public affairs as well. By the time he sold the house lot, he was already a resident of Muscogee County, on Georgia's western boundary, and was in that portion which shortly thereafter became Harris County, with Hamilton

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as its county seat, in 1828. There he was an early settler of Hamilton and was a Justice of the Inferior Court (county commissioner) in 1828-1830. He is living there during the 1840 Census and served as the county's state representative in 1841 and in 1842.

The rapid change of owners of this lot, four owners in less than 18 months between 1827-1828, would indicate that it was valuable property. Another indicator of its importance would be that the owners were men with lots of other activities, both civic and financial, with enterprises other than farming. They would not have owned this property, most likely, unless it were a good investment. A third indicator of its importance is its location, at the junction of two major roads, one the Old Alabama Road, a stage coach route leading west to Zebulon, the county seat of Pike County.

1828, Oct 29

James Whatley of Pike County to Solomon Grace/Groce, of Bibb Co., GA (who had lived in Jones County in 1821), on Oct. 29, 1828; [Pike Co., GA, Deed Book C, p. 263-264, recorded Feb. 23, 1832] no money mentioned. This deed appears to be a quit claim deed for Whatley's interest in the property. The deed was filed after Gachet's death and was perhaps needed to establish clear title for the widow. The original paperwork might have been lost.

1828, Oct 29

Solomon Grace/Groce, of Bibb County, sold to Benjamin Gachet, of Pike County, on Oct. 29, 1828; \$800 [Source: Pike Co., GA, Deed Book C, p. 264, recorded on Feb. 23, 1832]; 202.5 acres.

This deed, filed on the same day as the preceding one, appears to either be the real deed, or one written to take the place of missing documents. It was also recorded several years after Gachet's death, no doubt to make sure the widow had clear title. If Gachet was very ill for months or longer before his January, 1829, death, it would appear that he, Gachet, was trying to get his affairs in order before his death, since he was leaving his wife with six minor children. This house, if indeed an inn or stagecoach stop, would be a good source of income for a widowed woman with minor children, and her only son being less than two years old.

It could be that this deed was recorded only after the mortgage was finally paid off. This has been proven in other historic properties in Georgia (for example, Traveller's Rest, Stephens County) where the private family papers indicate a long mortgage arrangement, but the courthouse deed was written and filed only on the date the mortgage was paid and the owner had full title to the land, a different arrangement from today's mortgages.

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SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE LOT AND HOUSE:

At the death of Benjamin Gachet, in 1829, his widow owned 202.5 acres, Lot 8, on which the house sat at the important crossroads. She lived on this land for nearly 20 years.

In the 1830 Census, Caroline M. Gachet is shown with five children and nine slaves, two of them adult males, and one adult female.

She added to her holdings only shortly after the above deeds cleared the title of her house lot in 1832. The lot she bought, No. 25, is immediately to the west of lot 8, the house lot. It had been won in the 1821 Land Lottery by David Slocumb, of Jones County, the same county where the Gachets had lived. Having received his grant on October 28, 1825, Slocumb remained owner until selling the lot for \$100 to Caroline Gachet on July 22, 1833. [Source: Pike Co., GA Deeds, recorded on Dec. 10, 1833.] 202.5 acres. A portion of this lot is still within the 65 acres owned by the current owners.

Then on May 11, 1844, Caroline M. Gachet sold to Benjamin M. Milner, her new son-in-law, 405 acres (all known land). [Source: Pike Co., GA Deeds, recorded on March 10, 1848.]

Caroline Gachet and her youngest son, Charles, and one other child, then moved to Alabama. She appears living in Macon County, Alabama in the 1850 Census.

While Benjamin M. Milner sold 100 acres off of Lots 8, 25 and 26 of District 8 to Georgia L. and J. W. Vaughan on October 22, 1886, [Source: recorded on Sept. 27, 1887.] he retained ownership of the house lot.

Benjamin and Margaret Gachet Milner's youngest son, J.S. Milner (1867-1951) was the owner of the house in the 1930s. In 1954 it was purchased by Dudley Cannafax (whose sister had married a Milner). He and his wife secured an Atlanta architect, Card Elliott, who was also their son-in-law, to aid in the restoration. They rebuilt the detached kitchen which had been lost since 1938. After Mr. Cannafax's death, his widow offered the house to the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the same group who placed the marker there in 1930-1931. They were unable to afford its upkeep, and thus declined. The house was then rented for many years.

In 1987, the house was purchased from the Cannafax estate by Walter and Laura (Melton) Geiger, the present owners. They own the

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Barnesville Herald-Gazette. They have restored the house using the services of Atlanta restoration architect W. Lane Greene, a noted specialist in the field.

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Path 2: The GACHET FAMILY: From France to Pike (Lamar) County, GA:

A brief history of the Gachet family was included in the History of Lamar County, Georgia (1932), p. 384. The known errors of fact are annotated with corrections:

"Doctor Charles Gachet was a native of La Rochelle, France. He was educated for the priesthood but refused to follow that calling. This action caused such strained relations with his family that, after the death of his wife, he crossed the ocean with his small son, Benjamin, to make his home on the Island of San Domingo [Santo Domingo, Saint-Domingue]. To escape a negro uprising, in which the lives of all white inhabitants were threatened, he left the island and landed in Savannah. [Many French-born refugees did flee the slave revolt in what became Haiti in the 1790s and came to Savannah and other American cities.] There [see below, actually married in Louisville, GA in 1802] he married a widow [sic, she was a single woman], Mrs. Stubbs, who became the mother of James and Nicholas Gachet. [These younger sons moved to Stewart County, Georgia.] At an early age, Benjamin Gachet married his step-sister [sic, actually his step-mother's sister], Caroline Matilda Stubbs. They moved [sic, they married in 1815 in _____] to Pike County, now Lamar, where they reared [sic, Gachet died when the children were young and his wife raised them alone] a large family:... [Mary, Lou, Adelaide, Margaret, and Eliza, all girls, and a son, Charles Benjamin Gachet.]

Margaret Gachet, the daughter of Benjamin, married Benjamin M. Milner, son of the Rev. John Milner [Benjamin became the] father of J. S. Milner, of Lamar Co., who is the present owner [1930] of the old Gachet Home situated at the crossing of Towns and the old Alabama Roads. This house, more than one hundred years old, is of historic interest as the stopping place of Lafayette in his journey across Georgia in 1825 [sic, this tradition must have been perpetuated by the Gachet-Milner descendants, but it is false]...

Benjamin Gachet, the pioneer member of the family in middle Georgia, died at the age of thirty-six, and is buried in the Zebulon Street Cemetery, in Barnesville, where also rests the body of his daughter, Margaret Gachet Milner..."

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The myth of Lafayette's involvement with this house is further perpetuated in the History of Lamar County (1932) on pp. 442ff in the chapter on the "Old Alabama Stage Coach Line." Here, after describing the Old Alabama Road and how it was a stage route, based on the memory of the writer, one J.C. Collier, the author further states that at Milner's Cross Roads there was a stage stand and names other prominent visitors who went that route. He then gives a quasi-factual account of Lafayette's Georgia journey up to Milledgeville. From there he diverts from the facts to state: "Lafayette then passed on down the old Alabama stage coach line or former Indian trail via Indian Springs, High Falls, Liberty Hill, Milner's Cross Roads, all [now] in Lamar County; and he spent the night in the old Gachet home....on down to Columbus, Georgia, etc."

A more factual account of the Gachet family follows which was compiled from family records and the Family Bible:

Benjamin Gachet was the son of Dr. Charles Gachet and his first wife. Dr. Charles Gachet was a Frenchman who participated in the American Revolution. After coming to Georgia, he married Mary Gobert in the 1790s in Effingham County, Georgia, before he eventually settled in Jefferson County, where his wife, Mary Gobert Gachet, age 31, died March 11, 1802 in Louisville, Ga., the county seat and the then-state capital. Charles Gachet, then a merchant of Louisville, married Miss Nancy/Ann Stubbs, daughter of James Stubbs, in Jefferson County on Nov. 18, 1802. Not long thereafter, Charles Gachet and family moved to Jones County, between present-day Milledgeville and Macon, where he is listed as a member of the 1808 Jones County Grand Jury and purchased land there the same year. The county history states that he lived near Blountsville in the northeast section of the county. He remained in Jones County for several decades, as is shown in records: He paid taxes on 1311 acres in the 1811 Jones County tax digest. In 1814, he was taxed as a professional person in Jones County in the tax digest. His residence in that county is further confirmed by further appearance in tax digests for 1818-1819, as well as the 1820 and 1830 U.S. Censuses for Jones County. This indicates that the father of Benjamin Gachet remained behind in Jones County after the son, see below, moved on to Pike County. Charles Gachet would thus have been living in Jones County March 27-29, 1825 when Lafayette came through the area. Charles Gachet left Jones County after the 1830 Census and died in Stewart County, Ga. in 1831. This would indicate that he never moved to Pike County where his son lived.

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Benjamin Gachet was born in 1790 in France and moved to Georgia with his parents. In 1815, he married Caroline Matilda Stubbs, daughter of James Stubbs and Mary Eliza Scott. Caroline, born on Nov. 12, 1797 in Ga., was the sister of Benjamin's stepmother.

Benjamin and Caroline Gachet lived in Jones County, Georgia, near his father, until about 1825-1826 when they moved to Pike County and to the property where the Gachet House is now located.

The registration for the Land Lottery held of 1827 was held in early 1825 while Benjamin Gachet was still a legal resident of Jones County. That is why his winning draw of land, announced in 1827, shows him as a resident of Jones County.

NOTE: The actual date of his registration would be important vs. the date he supposedly hosted Lafayette at his house, which is said to be March 29, 1825.

A deed dated March 9, 1825, between Peter Stubbs, of Baldwin County, an in-law to Benjamin Gachet, lists Gachet as a resident of Jones County. Stubbs was selling Gachet a 202 and 1/2 acre lot of land in Butts County for \$235. This not only establishes Gachet's residence in Jones County the same month as Lafayette's travels, but also indicates that perhaps Gachet was speculating in other land in a different direction than his future homesite in Pike/Lamar County. (Butts County, GA Deed Book A, p. 135.)

Benjamin Gachet and Caroline Matilda Stubbs Gachet had six children: born between 1816 and 1827:

1. Mary Mildred Gachet, born Dec. 25, 1816.
2. Louisa Modeste Gachet, born Jan. 29, 1819.
3. Adelaide Clere Gachet, born Nov. 5, 1820.
4. Margaret Mariah Francoise Gachet, born April 29, 1823. Died 1892, buried in Barnesville. (She married in 1843 in Pike County, Benjamin Mosely Milner who was instrumental in the town of Milner's history. The town of Milner is approximately four miles north of the Gachet House.) She was later the owner of the house after her mother sold it to her husband, B.M. Milner, in 1844. Margaret spent most of her life in the same house.
5. Elizabeth Ann Gachet, born Aug. 28, 1825. Moved to Bullock Co., Alabama.
6. Charles Benjamin Louis Gachet, born Aug. 25, 1827. He was under age two when Benjamin Gachet died. He moved to Barbour

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County, Alabama, where he was living in 1850, and was in the section that became Bullock County in 1866.

Benjamin Gachet's first official record of being in Pike County is the deed, given above, where he bought 202 and 1/2 acres, Lot 9, District 8 in Pike County for \$450 on Dec. 12, 1825 from Albert J. Alexander. Subsequent land transactions followed. He appears in the Pike County tax digest of 1826. Gachet and his wife had their last child, born in Pike County, in 1827. Gachet died Jan. 29, 1829 and is buried in the Zebulon Street Cemetery in Barnesville.

Caroline Gachet remained as owner/occupant of this house for many years. She is listed in the Pike County censuses of 1830 and 1840. Caroline Matilda Gachet, as legal representative of Benjamin Gachet, claimed lots in Lee County in 1843. This would be for land won by Benjamin in the 1827 Land Lottery.

Caroline Gachet sold the house and adjoining lands to her daughter and son-in-law, Benjamin Milner, on May 11, 1844 and presumably then moved to Alabama to live with one of her other children. She died on Dec. 24, 1876 and is buried in Enon Cemetery, Bullock Co., Ala.

For the history of later owners of the house, see above.

Lafayette and the Gachet House:

The strong family tradition of the Gachet family meeting or hosting Gen. Lafayette is most likely associated with the older Dr. Charles Gachet. According to Lorene Flanders of Milledgeville, the current owner of the Major Edward White House, when Lafayette came to Milledgeville, March 27-29, 1825, Major White's family was living in Milledgeville. White, who had died in 1812, had been an adjutant to Lafayette at Yorktown in 1781. White was also a brother-in-law to Charles Gachet, who was still alive and presumably able to be in Milledgeville for the festivities.

White's family also still owned his plantation in Jones County which was adjacent to Gachet's plantation. These plantations were northeast of Clinton, then the county seat of Jones County. Lafayette passed through Clinton on the morning of March 29, 1825 on his journey from Milledgeville to Macon and from then to the Creek Indian Agency on the Flint River where he spent the night of March 29, 1825. It is reasonable to assume that Dr. Charles Gachet and son Benjamin and families could have been part of the festivities for Lafayette in

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

Clinton, Jones County, as well, since both lived in that county at that time.

This link between the White and Gachet families and White and Lafayette, as well as the White property in Milledgeville, could easily have produced the meeting between Gachet and Lafayette and the mention that a "family home" was visited by Lafayette. Or the visit could have been in Jones County, either on the way into Clinton or as part of the festivities there in the town. Later family retelling of the story could easily have transferred this "family home" to the Gachet House in Lamar County, which was the only family home known to later descendants. The descendant who owned the Gachet House in 1931 at the time the DAR placed a marker there was not born until 1867 and thus by the 1870s when he heard the family stories, they were several generations old.

In conclusion, it should be reiterated that on March 29, 1825, when the Marquis de Lafayette left Milledgeville for Macon, Benjamin Gachet was (a) a legal resident of Jones County, adjoining Milledgeville's Baldwin County; (b) did not own lot 9 on which his house survives today and (c) lot 9 was owned by the estate of Dr. Nicholas Bayard of Savannah and was not sold until 1826. Also, the route of Gen. Lafayette through Georgia is clearly delineated in the journal/diary of his travels and places him no closer than 50 miles to this property.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Geiger, Walter and Laura, owners, draft Historic Property Information Form, 1989, with supplemental additional research into deeds, Gachet family history, land lottery and other records, submitted in subsequent years.

Newspaper articles, ca. 1931-present.

LeVasseur, A. Lafayette in America in 1824 and 1825 (Philadelphia, 1829).

Nolan, J. Bennett Lafayette in America Day by Day (Baltimore, 1934). pp. 278-280 cover Georgia and indicate Lafayette did not come to Pike (Lamar) County.

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
- (X) recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # GA-14-121
- () recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- (X) State historic preservation office
- () Other State Agency
- () Federal agency
- () Local government
- () University
- () Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 65 acres.

UTM References

- A) Zone 16 Easting 760180 Northing 3661980
- B) Zone 16 E760720 N3661320
- C) Zone 16 E759910 N3661550

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is marked on the enclosed plat map as Tract C, 65.63 acres.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is all the owners own at this location and all that remains associated with the house. It includes the house, yard and a representative sample of the rural land formerly associated with the house at this crossroads location.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 57 Forsyth St., N.W., Suite 500
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** February 4, 1997

(HPS form version 10-29-91)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Benjamin Gachet House
City or Vicinity: Barnesville vicinity
County: Lamar
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: April, 1996

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 12: Front (south) Facade and East facade; ; photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 12: Front (south) Facade and west facade; photographer facing northeast.
- 3 of 12: Front (south) facade and west facade, with well house; photographer facing northeast.
- 4 of 12: Rear (north) facade with storehouse ell; photographer facing southeast.
- 5 of 12: Rear (north) facade and east facade; photographer facing southwest.
- 6 of 12: Interior, first floor, stair hall; photographer facing northeast.
- 7 of 12: Interior, first floor, tavern; photographer facing southwest.
- 8 of 12: Interior, first floor, dining room looking into the tavern; photographer facing southwest.
- 9 of 12: Interior, first floor, living room (parlor); photographer facing southeast.
- 10 of 12: Interior, first floor, bedroom in rear shed addition; photographer facing northeast.
- 11 of 12: Interior, second floor, bedroom over the dining room; photographer facing northwest.

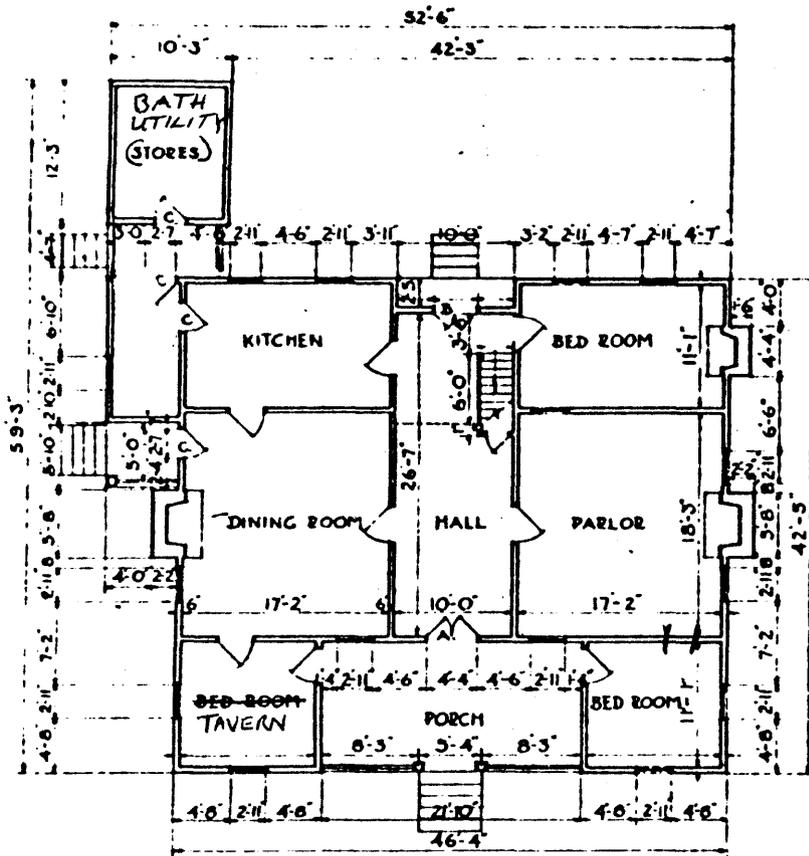
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

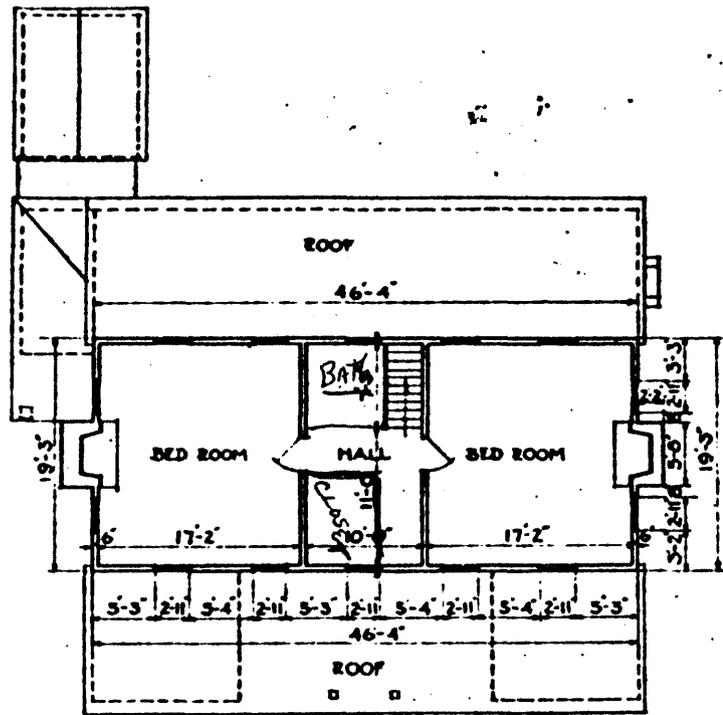
Photographs

12 of 12: Georgia Historical Marker (1954), in front of house;
photographer facing northwest.

DOOR SCHEDULE:
 A: 2'-2" X 6'-10" X 1 1/2"
 B: 1'-6" X 6'-10" X 1 1/2"
 C: 2'-7" X 6'-8" X 1 1/2"
 ALL OTHERS:
 2'-11" X 6'-8" X 1 1/2"



FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



SECOND FLOOR PLAN
 SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

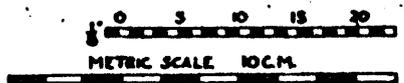


FLOOR PLAN

BENJAMIN GACHET HOUSE
 BARNESVILLE VICINITY, LAMAR COUNTY
 GEORGIA

SCALE: DIMENSIONS MARKED ON THE MAP.
 SOURCE: HABS DRAWINGS, 1936, IS BASE
 MAP.

DATE: 1936/ UPDATED 1996
 KEY: THE ROOM USAGES, WITH MODERN
 ADJUSTMENTS, ARE MARKED DIRECTLY
 ON THE TWO DIFFERENT FLOOR PLANS



| | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| NAME OF STRUCTURE THE GACHET HOUSE PIKE COUNTY | GEORGIA | SURVEY NO. 14-121 | HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY SHEET 1 OF 3 SHEETS | ROLL NO. |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------|