

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 RECEIVED MAY 30 1978  
 DATE ENTERED JUN 22 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Woodville

AND/OR COMMON

Clark-Bentley House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Georgia Highway 243, 3/4 mile south of Scottsboro

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Milledgeville *mic.*

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8th - Billy Evans

STATE

Georgia

CODE

13

COUNTY

Baldwin

CODE

009 ✓

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Bentley ✓

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 249

CITY, TOWN

Milledgeville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Baldwin County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Milledgeville

STATE

Georgia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Survey of Baldwin County by William Moffat

DATE

1975

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Section

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The principal facade of Woodville faces southeast. Woodville is a plantation plain style house with center hall. Originally, the principal facade had a two-story, central portico. A photograph of this portico, which was removed prior to 1948, is pictured in Cook's History of Baldwin County. This photograph shows that there were separate columns for each floor level, four to a floor, arranged in pairs. A triangular pediment completes the top of the portico. The columns appear to have been of the Tuscan order. They are round and quite plain. An on-site inspection of the house today seems to support the story that parts of the original portico were used in the current existing porch, a one-story porch across the entire front of the house. Six plain, round columns support the roof of this porch.

The main entrance of the house was located on the central axis of the southeast facade. The doors were a unique pair of folding paneled doors with a rectangular transom above. There were no sidelights. Upon entering the house through this door, the visitor would have had a clear view through the central hall to a similarly paired rear door. These doors were secured at night by a bar across the inside. Both front and rear doors were replaced ca. 1948 with glass sliding doors. The original doors are currently stored in an exposed condition on the property.

The front door is flanked by nine-over-nine windows, two on each side. At the second story level, there are six windows, nine-over-six. The middle two are smaller than the others and originally flanked a door no longer exposed on the exterior that led to the second floor of the original portico.

Both the east and west facades have exterior brick chimneys, a larger one for each of the two front rooms and a smaller one for each of the two rear shed rooms. A one-story wooden shed addition projects from the west end of the shed part enclosing the two exterior chimneys on this side. The rear or north facade features the shed portion of the house which runs the entire width of the house. The windows in the west portion of the shed have been enlarged for a large kitchen window. The room now used as the kitchen was originally used as a bedroom. A central extension of the shed forms an enclosed back porch. This is also an addition. The walls of the house are insulated with brick rubble and horsehair.

Seaton Grantland, who lived in the house after Clark, described the original appearance of the house in an article published in the Southern Recorder offering Woodville for sale in 1834. He wrote: "The dwelling house is spacious and airy, containing seven rooms, four of which are large and well ventilated; there is a passage through the house about 15' wide and 40' in length...with the buildings I will sell the pine land adjacent (450 acres) as I bought of Gov. Clark..."

The plan of Woodville (see the attached sketch map) was a central hall type, two rooms up and two rooms down, with shed addition. Originally, all the rooms on the first floor opened into a central hall. Now this hall is divided into a front

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and rear portion by the addition of a wall. The front portion is connected to the rear hall by a door. On either side of the front part of the hall are two large rooms with end fireplaces. The mantels in these two rooms are made of wood with protruding "Greek Ears" marking the top corners of the opening enframing. The side jambs are "battered" and terminate on square blocks at their base. The walls in these rooms are of plaster and the floors are tongue and groove pine. The original position of the door to the southeast front room has been moved forward to make room for a stair.

The floors in the front entrance hall have been covered with a vinyl type floor covering and their condition could not be determined. The stair in the front hall is a one-half turn dog-leg type with intermediate landing and was installed ca. 1948, replacing the original stairway which was enclosed and located in the northwest shed room. The original stair was removed at that time. The remaining original doors (there are two in the hall) are paneled on one side and flush on the other.

The rear shed rooms are very narrow and open into the rear portion of the hall. The rear portion of the hall originally had a plaster dome device in the ceiling, but a dropped ceiling now prevents its inspection or description. The mantel in the northeast shed room is very narrow. Two fluted pilasters support a narrow shelf. The horizontal jamb between the pilasters is unornamented.

The second floor was originally reached by means of the enclosed stair that led from the northwest shed bedroom to a bedroom above. The two bedrooms upstairs correspond to the position of the two large front rooms downstairs and are connected by a central room over the front portion of the central hall downstairs.

The upstairs bedrooms have plain horizontal board wainscoting which terminates at the top in a simple molding. The mantel in the upper southwest bedroom is similar to the narrow mantel in the northeast shed room, but it has a carved sunburst on the horizontal jamb. The mantel in the upper southeast bedroom is full size. Paneled pilasters support a horizontal jamb with corner and central panels. It is uncarved.

The grounds of Woodville were originally planted with gardens, which no longer exist. From old photographs, there is evidence of the deliberate, formal planting of trees. A number of outbuildings exist on the property, as shown on the attached sketch map. These outbuildings include an old barn, a smokehouse, and a milkhouse, as well as recently constructed storage houses located between the smokehouse and milkhouse. Other outbuildings include a pumphouse-well, on which old doors from the house have been used, and a shed and large warehouse used for storing antiques.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1819

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Woodville is significant historically as one of the oldest buildings surviving in Baldwin County. It is also of interest to Georgia historians as the home of a Georgia governor, John Clark (1819-1823), a Revolutionary War hero; and it was later the home of newspaper publisher, Seaton Grantland.

Seaton Grantland, in an article in the Southern Recorder offering Woodville for sale, stated that the house was "supposed to be as healthy as any spot on the globe. No case of bilious fever having occurred while Governor Clark or myself lived at this place during a term of 15 years." This statement would place the date of construction at 1818 or 1819.

Frequent visitors were entertained in the house under Governor Clark, such as Adam Hodgson of Liverpool who was in Georgia in 1820 and who mentioned in his book on America that he spent half an hour with Governor (Clark) who had a "good house a few miles distant" from Milledgeville.

Seaton Grantland, planter, politician, and journalist, started the Southern Recorder in Milledgeville on February 15, 1820, with Richard Orme. They had bought the equipment and subscription list of the defunct Milledgeville Georgia Republican. This paper figured in the lively political debates of the time.

Apparently no one bought the house when it was offered for sale as Grantland's daughter, Mrs. DuBignon, became mistress of Woodville in the 1860's and lived her lifetime there.

Recent owners were the Bim Richardsons (1920's-1940's) and the Carl Bentleys (1940's to present).

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Georgia Journal, January 8, 1834, Advertisement offering Woodville for sale.

Griffith, Louis Turner and Talmadge, John Erwin, Georgia Journalism, 1763-1950, Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1951.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 5 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Milledgeville, Georgia QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	29,05,5,0	3,6,5,5,2,9,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The boundary shall be formed by a line that connects points determined to be 200 feet from any and all exterior walls of the main structure and shall include the outbuildings and circular drive as shown on the accompanying sketch map.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Dr. Elizabeth A. Lyon, Chief, Historic Preservation Section; Beth Lattimore Reiter, Historic Preservation Planner, Savannah, Georgia

ORGANIZATION

Historic Preservation Section

DATE

December 1976

STREET & NUMBER

270 Washington Street, S. W.

TELEPHONE

(404) 656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia 30334

# 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

Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

5/12/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
ATTEST: *[Signature]*  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

6-22-79

DATE

6/21/79

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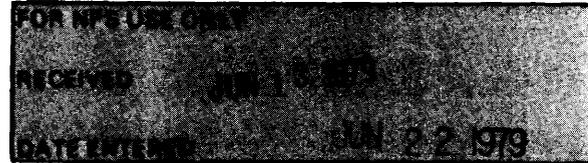
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the concealed plaster dome in the ceiling of the rear hall, and wall insulation in the form of brick rubble and horsehair. Several surviving outbuildings dating from the nineteenth century help maintain the historic setting of Woodville, and the remainders from earlier tree-planting activity give some indication of the extent of formal landscaping which once characterized the grounds around the plantation house. Although Woodville has been added to and altered in several respects, very little original historic fabric has been destroyed, and the overall appearance of this early nineteenth century Plantation Plain house survives in spite of the changes made in building and grounds.

Woodville is significant in local history as the home of its builder, John Clark (1766-1832), who came to Milledgeville in 1819 and served as governor until 1823. A Revolutionary War veteran and son of Georgia's great hero of that era, General Elijah Clarke (d. 1799), Governor Clark was connected by birth or marriage to many prominent and influential families in the state. He left an indelible political mark on the state since his personality and strong opinions divided the state's politicians into Clarkites and Crawfordites (later called Troupites), a division that lasted for several generations. One of the social highlights of his governorship was the marriage of his daughter and only surviving child, Ann, to John Campbell of Madison on March 26, 1822, although it is not clear if it took place at the governor's mansion or this house. After leaving office, Clark and his wife moved to Florida in 1827 where he became an Indian Agent. At about this time he sold this house, although the deed does not exist. The Clarks died in Florida, he in 1832.

Seaton Grantland (1782-1864) was the second owner of this house. He was a Virginian who came to Milledgeville in 1809 and began the second newspaper there, The Georgia Journal; and, by the time he bought this house, he was a leader in the communications field. In 1810, Grantland, a practicing attorney, became the State Printer. In 1819 after his brother-partner's death, he sold the newspaper. However, 1820 found him and a new partner, Richard Orme, purchasing The Southern Recorder, also in Milledgeville, which they owned until 1833 when it was sold to Grantland's nephew. The Southern Recorder was one of only a handful of newspapers in Georgia in 1830 and, by being in the state capital, it had a widespread influence. During Grantland's day, it published activities of the State Legislature, the legal notices for several dozen surrounding counties who were unable to support a newspaper of their own, and naturally brought national news to the local citizens, often quoting from such nationally known publications as Niles Register.

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Grantland's political philosophy was that of states rights. Besides disseminating news as an editor, he also made news while serving in Congress from 1835-39 as a Democrat. He was one of Georgia's nine congressmen at that time. In 1831 he published an account of a nearby slave uprising and indicated that at Woodville lived his mother and children (his wife having died) as well as 50 slaves. In 1834 he offered the place for sale (perhaps contemplating a temporary move to Washington City) describing it as being near the community of Scottsboro and the homes of a number of notable families. The plantation consisted of 2,100 acres where cotton and corn were raised, although he had no real interest in farming. His second wife died in 1845, his mother in 1851; and, after his own mental collapse in 1852 from which he never recovered, he died at Woodville on October 18, 1864, and was buried in Milledgeville. The house then passed into the total ownership of his daughter Anna Virginia, whose 1844 marriage to Charles DuBignon (whose family owned Jekyll Island, Georgia) was one of the major social events at Woodville during the Grantland years. They ran the plantation after her father became ill.

In the twentieth century, the owners have been the Bim Richardsons from the 1920's through the 1940's when the current owners purchased it. Since then they have maintained it as a private home.

Major Bibliographical References:

Bonner, James C. Milledgeville, Georgia's Antebellum Capital (Athens, 1978)  
Northen, William J., ed. Men of Mark in Georgia (Atlanta, 1910, reprint 1974)  
(sketches of Seaton Grantland and John Clark)

Form Prepared By:

Richard Cloues, Architectural Historian  
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Historic Preservation Section  
Department of Natural Resources  
270 Washington Street, S. W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
404/656-2840  
May 31, 1979

Elizabeth A. Lyon  
Elizabeth A. Lyon, Ph.D.  
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

5/1/79  
Date

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SUPPLEMENT

WOODVILLE/CLARK-BENTLEY HOUSE  
BALDWIN COUNTY, GEORGIA

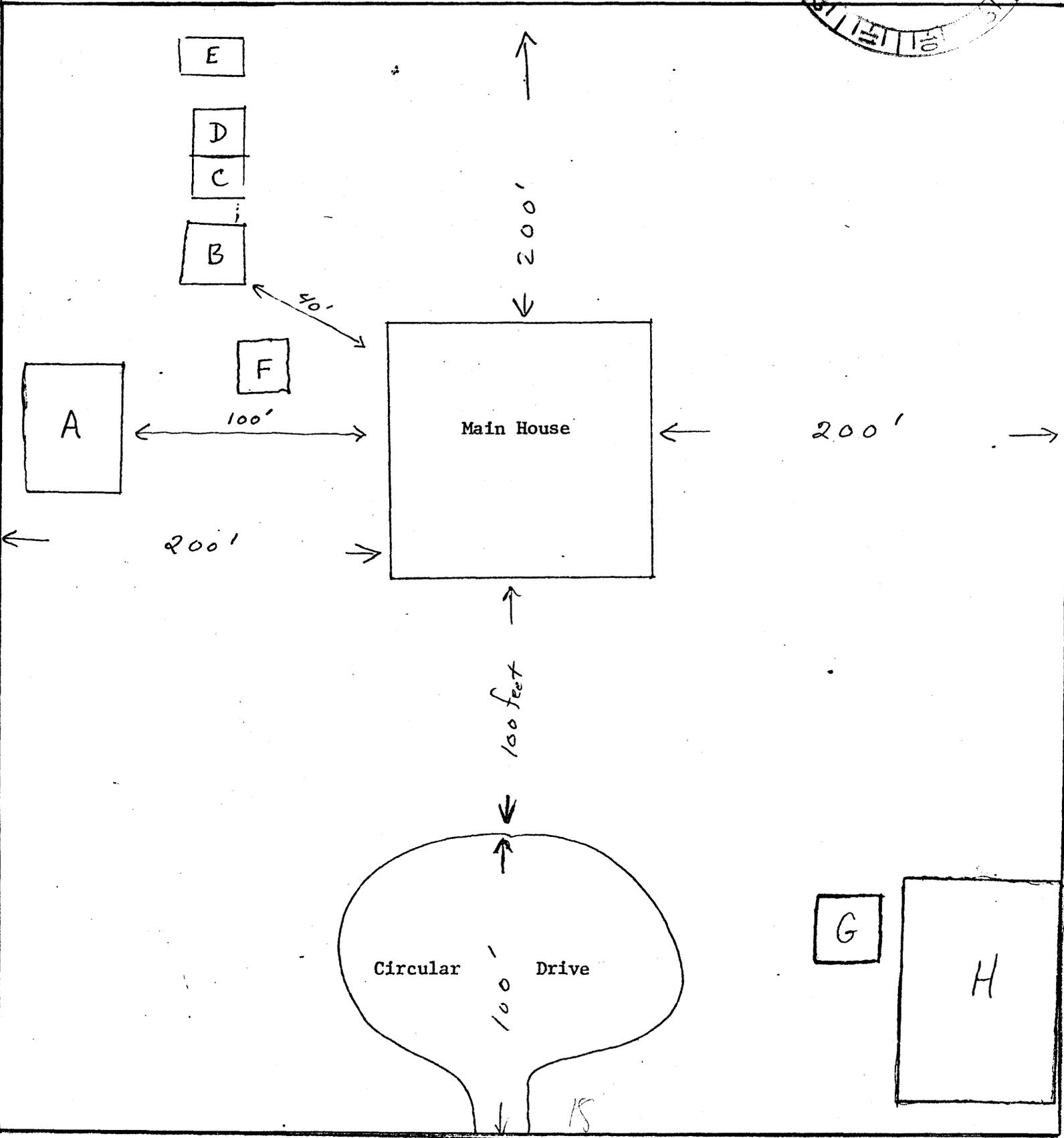
"Woodville" is significant in architecture, local history and communications. The area in which it was built was opened for settlement after the Treaty of 1803 and the Land Lottery of 1805. The establishment of the state capital in Milledgeville, the county seat, in 1807 caused an influx of the great and near-great to this city that was being carved out of the wilderness. The builder of this house, John Clark, came to Milledgeville upon his election as governor and built this house, several miles out from Milledgeville in the Scottsboro community around 1819. He apparently desired a home other than that provided by the state legislature. After his governorship, he sold the home to Seaton Grantland, a well-known editor of one of the state's most powerful newspapers. Woodville's architecture in the Plantation Plain style reflects the low-key approach to living that the first two occupant-owners of the house had, while many of their contemporaries, political and financial equals, were building much more elaborate and imposing structures in the county and state.

Statement of Significance:

Built c. 1819, Woodville is significant as one of the oldest standing buildings in Baldwin County. It is also a relatively good surviving example of the Plantation Plain style of house indigenous to the southeast. The overall massing and floor plan of the main house, the attached rear shed, the original double-decked front porch with pedimented portico, the location, design, and construction of chimneys, and the detailing throughout are characteristic of this kind of residential architecture. Especially fine exterior details include the change in window sizes from the first to the second floors (from nine-over-nine to nine-over-six double sash), the beaded clapboards, and the compound corner boards. Plain matched-board paneling and flooring, matched-board wainscoting, and plaster walls are typical for the interior of a Plantation Plain house; the delicate Federal-style mantels are somewhat surprising refinements. Other unusual features which give Woodville distinction are the original paired folding paneled front and rear doors (instead of the more customary arrangement of hinged doors with the side and transom lights),

- Outbuildings: A - Barn (old)
- B - Smokehouse (old)
- C - Storagehouse (modern)
- D - Storagehouse (modern)
- E - Milkhouse (old)
- F - Pumphouse and well (combination)
- G - Shed (modern)
- H - Warehouse (modern)

The red lines represent the boundaries for this nomination.



Woodville, Milledgeville, Baldwin County, Georgia

Sketch map of original floor plan (conjectural)  
Not to scale

