

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

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

AR 2/19/88

1. Name

historic The Homeland

and/or common Boykin Place

2. Location

6 miles west of West Point, Georgia on Fredonia Road, Chambers County 81,
W 1/2 Sec. 33, T-23, R 28

street & number Route 4-Box 752

not for publication

city, town Lanett

vicinity of

congressional district

state Alabama

code 36863

county Chambers

code

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 Lynda Boykin Dickinson (Mrs. Walter Dickinson)

street & number 4943 S. San Pablo Road

city, town Jacksonville

vicinity of

state Florida 32224

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chambers County Courthouse

street & number

city, town LaFayette

state AL.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	___ unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
___ good	___ ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	___ moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Homeland was originally a large Cotton Plantation, complete with slaves, cotton gin and country manor house. It was built with slave labor in the early 1840's. The predominate building is a raised cottage (one story) built in classically simple Greek Revival Style (Picture #1). After slavery days the place was still a cotton plantation farmed by tenants. None of the tenant houses are left standing--although the sites are definable because of standing chimneys.

The Homeland is located on a 880 track of land in Eastern Alabama, near the Alabama-Georgia Line.

The foundation of the house is built of 12" thick brick walls that run parallel in three rows across the width of the original house--one row across the front, one across the back and one across the center. Between the back and center wall was a room used, in early days, as a dining room. At intervals, in between the walls (except in the room) are pillars of slave made brick, measuring 12"x34". About 1875 an addition (kitchen and dining room) was added to the back of the house. This addition is now supported by concrete block pillars and concrete block walls laid in 1948. Ten by ten handhewn support the framework of the house--some as long as the house. The entire building rests on clay foundation.

The framing is of mortise and tenon in the original phase and measures approximately 33 x 42 feet--not counting a 70" veranda. The latter phase is wood framed and nailed with square nails. It measures approximately 27 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet. The two phases are separated by a breezeway measuring approximately 85".

The exterior wall material is wooden boards in a weatherboard pattern, about 6" wide. The exterior wall treatment is simple--very few embellishments--but very lovely and graceful. Enclosed are two pictures of the front porch treatment. (See photos #2, 3)

(Continued)

There are three porches. The front porch, the side porch (extending along the entire length of the house on the east side) and the middle porch which includes the beforementioned breezeway. Originally before the second phase was built, a veranda encompassed the entire house. Later the porch on the west side was eliminated. The porches are 70" wide except for the breezeway which is 85" and in front of the kitchen door which is widened to 100".

The roofs over the porches are angled onto the exterior side of the house (See photos #4, 5, 6). Upright supports are simple 4 x 4's except the front porch supports which are square columns measuring 13" x 13". (See photos #2, 3).

In front there are five bays (4 windows and 1 double door), seven bays on the east side (5 windows and two doors), four bays on the north side (3 windows and 2 doors), and five bays on the west side (all windows).

The shape of the roof is:



The present roof material is green asbestos shingles and the roof trim is as in photo #3.

The house contains five chimneys, three located in bedrooms, one in the dining room. (These are fireplaces with mantels) and one over the kitchen which did accommodate the original wood-burning cook stove.

There are six entrance doors, the main entrance is shown in Photos #2, 3 and is composed of double wood doors made in vertical panels.



Double screens enable the doors to be kept open in hot weather. There are sidelights and a transom. (See Photos #2, 3). Identical doors on the opposite end of the long hall/living room give the room symmetry, however, there are no sidelights on these doors. The side entrance has one door into the master bedroom and is composed of fifteen panes of glass. The breezeway offers an entrance into the main house through a den/bedroom. This door is composed of fifteen panes of glass also. Across from this door, in the breezeway, is an entrance door into the dining room, also of fifteen glass panes. The back porch entrance

to the kitchen has an interesting and very old dutch door, decorated with various latches and locks. All doors have screens except the two off the breezeway.

The window treatment is very simple. There are four windows across the front which are double hung with eighteen panes ornamented by wooden shutters. There are five windows across the east side--only one being different. This is a small casement window of three vertical panes of glass hung in the bedroom/den. This window opens from the top and swings down and inside. Across the back are three windows--two are casement, similar to the one described above and located in the kitchen and bathroom. The other regular window is in a bedroom. On the west side are five double hung windows identical to the front. All windows have shutters except the casements.

There are four mantels, three in bedrooms and one in the dining room. Two are approximately six feet wide and one is somewhat more narrow. They are simple and straight lined. The doors and window trim have no embellishments--just neatly squared, straight trim. The doors are identical to the front entrance--composed of two vertical wood panels. There are no stairs now, however, in early days there was a staircase leading down to the dining room, located below the hall/living room. This was before the existing dining room/kitchen was built and the kitchen itself was located in another building some distance behind the house. The staircase has been boarded up and can only be seen from under the house now.

Interior walls in the unaltered state are of plaster over wood boards, except for the hall/living room which are of wooden board (painted). The ceilings are of wooden boards approximately 6" wide and most of them run the width of the ceiling (approximately seventeen feet). The baseboards are 6" wooden boards with 5/8" beading on top. The kitchen, dining room and den/bedroom have had the ceiling lowered and are of sheetrock. The kitchen walls also have been sheetrocked.

The floors are of 6" boards, all having been painted except in two rooms which are natural finish--(den and dining room). The kitchen floor, before being covered with vinyl, was of a later flooring material (tongue-and-groove- 4 inch).

The only original lighting fixture is in the hall/living room and is a pull down kerosene burning, hand painted china and brass chandelier. The house was not electrified until 1944 and at that time brass and bronze chandeliers were installed in two bedrooms. The house was heated by wood burning fireplaces until fairly recently when gas heaters were installed in some of the rooms.

The door knobs are made of white or brown china or of brass.

The original phase of the house was built in the 1840's with the dining room beneath (as stated earlier) later (before 1880) an addition was built to the back, composed of dining room and kitchen. At this time the west side porch was eliminated from encircling veranda, although the porch between the original house and the addition was kept, which resulted in the breezeway.

In 1959 a den/closet/bath was made from one of the four bedrooms at which time the ceiling was dropped and a window to the breezeway made into an entrance door. The dining room was face lifted in 1972 by dropping the 13 ft. ceiling to 10 ft, sheetrocking the ceiling, refinishing the floor, and hanging an appropriate five light chandelier.

The house sits on a hill above the road approximately 250 feet back. A driveway encircles the house, coming to a point close to the road. At this point is located an "Uncle Sam" mailbox which has been a landmark to locate anything and anybody on the Fredonia Road for years. A large hardwood and cedar grove is on either side of the driveway, with a pasture at the sides and rear of the house. The lawn of about sixty feet in width landscapes the area between house and pasture fence. Two large boxwood tree/bushes guard either side of the front of the house. Gardenia bushes, once large and fragrant, have died of old age, as well as many fruit trees in an orchard to the east of the house.

Large pink crepe myrtle trees still stand around the yard and a long row of bridal wreath bushes separate the front yard terrace.

The three car (or buggy) garage situated about 75 feet southeast of the house was built before 1900 and a cotton warehouse located 80 feet northwest of the house was built even earlier. A lean-to shed on either side of the warehouse was added thirty years ago.

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

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Homeland is significant in several areas--architecture, settlement and social-historic-pertaining to the development of the South. The following story is a classic:

Robert Reid inherited slaves from his father in Dadeville, Alabama in the 1830's, moved to the Eastern Crescent of Alabama and purchased this tract of land from a Greek Indian female in 1838. The latter fact is listed in the Land Survey Book at LaFayette, Alabama Courthouse. With slave labor he cleared the land, built this house, the Homeland, in the simple Greek Revival style of that period. The bricks and framing timbers were hand-made-hewn. The finished boards were taken by mule-pulled wagons as logs, cut and planed at a lumber mill in LaGrange, Georgia--20 miles away and brought home. Robert Reid instituted a thriving cotton plantation worked by slaves and administered by himself and his two sons.

At some point he sold his estate and it in turn was sold to my great Grandfather, M. J. Adams, shortly before the war, about 1875. As a result the emancipation of the slaves, tenant farming continued the economic staple, cotton. To this day the chimneys of the tenant farmers stand as a gauge of the extent of each parcel of acreage that was operated by each tenant farmer. I have come across letters written in 1915-1925 commenting on certain tenants, their mules, their attitudes and their productivity.

The Homeland was operated as a cotton plantation until the boll weevil invasion made it economically unfeasible. Thereafter various farming operations were instituted here but none with as much profit as growing and marketing timber which is now its primary product.

(Continued)

I would like to comment on the architecture of the house in regard to suitability to climate and sun. The house was built with an eye to hot weather and damp weather. The high ceilings, cross ventilation of windows and openings underneath the house lead itself to combating high temperatures. Also the elevation from ground level kept the house from flooding in wet weather. The hall, able to be opened at both ends, allowed the breeze into the center of the house, as well as allowed barometric pressure to be minimized during tornados.

The sequence of modification: Built in 1840

1875 Kitchen/dining room added and side veranda dropped

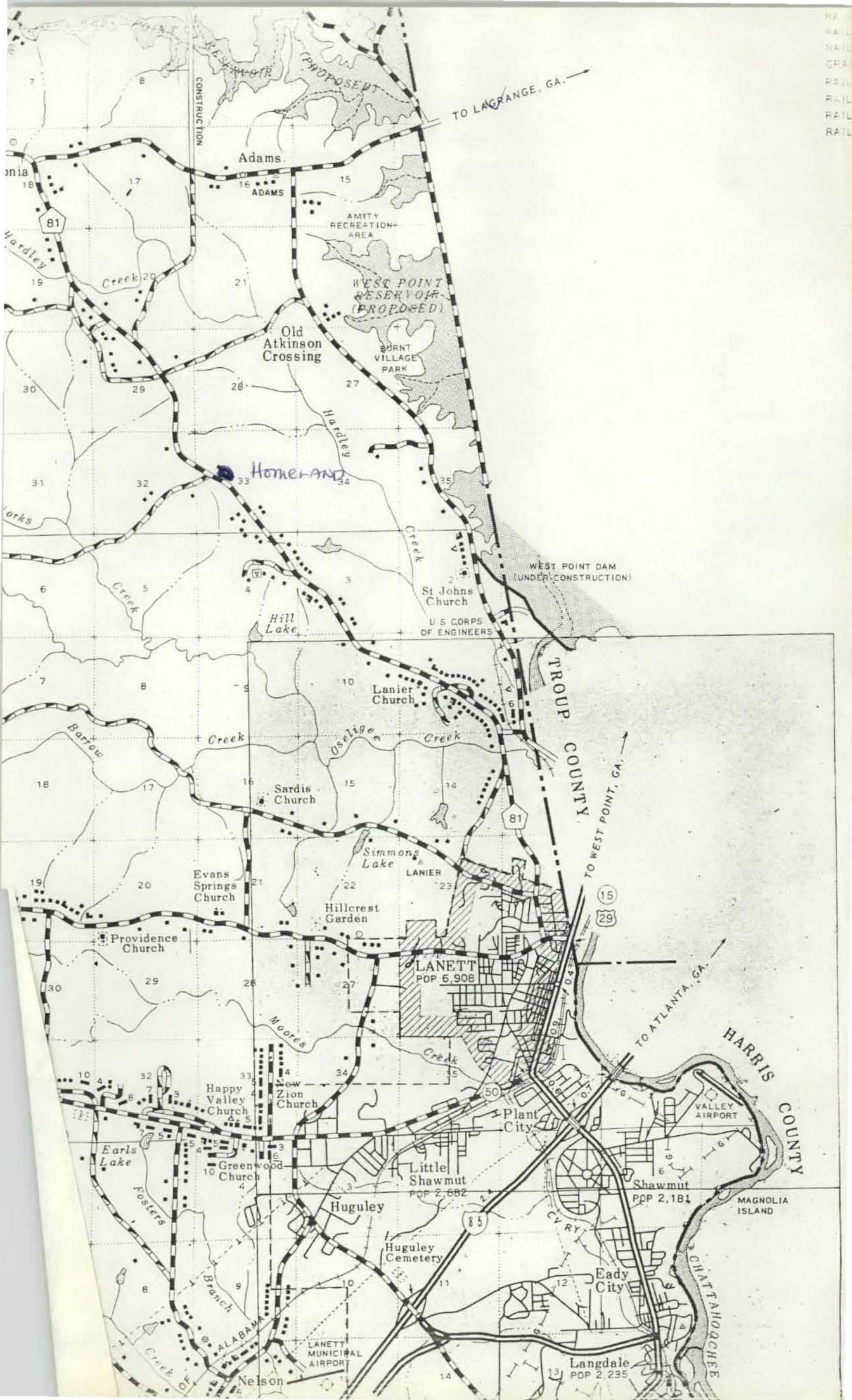
1926 New paint, lattice, plaster

1945 Electrified

1948 Foundation work--new front steps

1959 (1) Den/closet/bath added
(2) Ceiling lowered in two rooms
(3) Indoor plumbing
(4) Gas heat (individual heaters)
(5) Painted

PINELOG AND GREEK REVIVAL, William H. Davidson, 1964, published by Outlook Publishing Company, Alexander City, Alabama. Library of Congress No. 648466, Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society.



TO LAGRANGE, GA. →

TO WEST POINT, GA. →

TO ATLANTA, GA. →

CONSTRUCTION

WEST POINT RESERVOIR (PROPOSED)

WEST POINT DAM (UNDER CONSTRUCTION)

U.S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS

TROUP COUNTY

HARRIS COUNTY

CHATTAHOOCHEE

Adams
ADAMS

Old Atkinson Crossing

Home

Lanier Church

Sardis Church

Evans Springs Church

Providence Church

Happy Valley Church

New Zion Church

Earls Lake

Greenwood Church

Little Shawmut
POP 2,682

Huguley

Huguley Cemetery

Shawmut
POP 2,181

Eady City

Langdale
POP 2,235

LANETT MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

VALLEY AIRPORT

MAGNOLIA ISLAND

81

81

15
29

85

16

17

15

21

27

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RA
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GRA
RAIL
RAIL
RAIL