

119 West Park Avenue
Savannah Victorian Historic District
Savannah
Chatham County
Georgia

GA-1169 E

HABS.
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53E-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
 SAVANNAH VICTORIAN HISTORIC DISTRICT

119 WEST PARK AVENUE

HABS No. GA-1169E

Location: 119 West Park Avenue, located on the south side of Park Avenue, formerly known as New Houston Street, between Whitaker Street and Barnard Street, Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia.

Present Owner and Occupant: James Land Jones.

Present Use: Residence.

Significance: This central-hall Greek Revival-style house is the only one of its type remaining in the Victorian District. It was damaged extensively by fire in 1979.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Ca. 1852-1866. Lot 22, upon which this structure stands, was sold in 1851 together with lot 20 for \$300. In 1854 the owner of the lots, C.A. Cloud, rented two houses located on the corner of Barnard and Park Avenue, one of which may have been this structure. In 1866 lot 22 was sold alone for \$3,000, indicating that a building had been erected on the lot.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original owner: Carroll A. Cloud of Walton County.
4. Alterations and additions: A two-story concrete block section was added to the rear. The direction of the interior stairs has been reversed. In the ground floor the central hall had originally extended through the entire length of the house; during the renovation the eastern wall of the hall was removed at the rear of the house creating a large rear room. The door from the front hall to the dining room was opened up into a large rectangular opening. A door to the exterior in the west wall of the dining room was closed up.

On the second floor the vertical sliding doors between the front and rear bedrooms have been closed. Closets have been installed in the second-story bedrooms by the fireplaces. The door to the west back bedroom from the hall was moved several feet to the south.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Madame Chastenet, wife of a later owner of the house, conducted a French school in this house. The house is located in an early development of the Victorian District known as Oglethorpe Town.

For background information, see Savannah Victorian Historic District, HABS No. GA-1169.

C. Bibliography:

Deed Records, 3 I 20, and 3 X 571, Chatham County Courthouse, Savannah, Georgia.

Daily Morning News, 2 January 1854, vol. 5, p. 204 located at the Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Prepared by: Beth Lattimore Reiter
Project Historian
Historic American Buildings
Survey
August, 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This two-story masonry structure with a raised entrance stoop is characterized by a Greek Revival doorway and interior woodwork.
2. Condition of fabric: Poor; this house had been completely restored when it was severely damaged by fire in the summer of 1979.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: This L-shaped house is one story with a fully exposed basement level. It measures 42'-9" (five-bay front) X 35'-2" with a rear addition 11'-6" X 10'-3".
2. Foundations: Brick.
3. Wall construction, finish: Load bearing brick construction with a concrete block rear addition. A brick belt course defines the first-floor level on the north facade.

4. Structural system: Load bearing brick construction.
5. Porches, steps: The central entrance porch rests on brick piers, and is approached from the west by iron steps. Plain wooden posts support the flat canopy and turned balusters are between the posts.
6. Chimneys: One brick chimney is located at the east end of the house and one near the west center.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways, doors: The main central entrance is framed by four-light sidelights and a five-light transom. The door is wooden with arched panels. The ground-floor central entrance is a wooden four-panel door. The door from the kitchen is a wooden panel door with an exterior metal and glass storm door.
 - b. Windows: There are no windows on the east wall. The ground-floor windows are segmental-arched with six-over-six-light sashes, sashes, flanked by louvered shutters. On the north facade of the second floor there are floor-length parlor windows with nine-over-nine lights.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Shallow hip roof with standing seam metal sheathing.
 - b. Cornice and eaves: A brick dentil course is below the wooden box cornice. Gutters with metal downspouts are concealed by the cornice.
- C. Description of Interior:
 1. Floor plans: Central-hall plan, two rooms deep on both the ground floor and first floor. The central hall terminates in a room created by the concrete block addition.
 2. Stairways: The stairs are a straight run which originally ran from the ground-floor to the first floor directly opposite the ground-floor entrance. The stairway has been reversed and now runs from the ground-floor rear room to the first floor.
 3. Flooring: Hardwood floors throughout.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Painted plaster walls. Originally the plaster cornice in the first-floor central hall stopped midway down the hall. There was no cornice in the rear half of the hall. During the present renovation a wood cornice resembling the plaster cornice has been installed in the rear half. The ground floor has an exposed beam ceiling.
 5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways, doors: The interior doors are wooden six-panel doors. There are sliding double doors between the hall and the parlors on the main level. Each of these doors has six panels arranged in two rows of three. The doors between the front and back rooms on this level slide up into the wall, and are framed by wide Classical shoulder trim.
 - b. Windows: The windows are framed in wide shouldered surrounds.
 6. Decorative features: All rooms have fireplaces with simple wooden mantels of a plain frieze and pilasters supporting a simple shelf. The largest fireplace is located in the southwest ground-floor room, the original kitchen.
 7. Hardware: Silver-plated escutcheons are attached to the sliding parlor doors.
 8. Mechanical systems:
 - a. Heating, airconditioning, ventilating: The house was originally ventilated by the central hall crosscurrent of air and heated by wood-burning fireplaces. Now it is centrally airconditioned and heated.
 - b. Lighting: Electrical wiring.
- D. Site:

The house faces north and is built on the lot line.

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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the City of Savannah, the Historic Preservation Section of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the Savannah Landmark Rehabilitation Project, Inc., and Historic Savannah Foundation. The recording project was completed during the summer of 1979 under the general direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect; Eric Delony, Project Coordinator, Savannah Landmark Rehabilitation Project, Inc.; Beth Lattimore Reiter, Project Historian, Savannah Landmark Rehabilitation Project, Inc.; and Susan Dornbusch, Project Supervisor, University of Virginia; with student architects Gregori Anderson (Howard University), David Fixler (Columbia University), Stephen Lauf (Temple University), and Tamara Peacock (University of Florida), at the HABS Office in Savannah, Georgia. The drawings were edited in the Washington office in September 1979 by architects Susan Dornbusch and Gregori Anderson. The historical and architectural data was reviewed and edited during October-November 1979 by staff historian Jan Cigliano. Photographs were taken in September 1979 by Walter Smalling, a staff photographer with the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. The documentation on the historic district will be used in the rehabilitation of the residences and in developing design guidelines for the area.