

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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

Taylor Hall

AND/OR COMMON

Taylor Hall

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Kibbe Street

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Hawkinsville

\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8th - Billy Evans

STATE

Georgia

CODE

13

COUNTY

Pulaski

CODE

235 ✓

**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
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Larry D. Hedden

STREET & NUMBER

Kibbe Street

CITY, TOWN

Hawkinsville

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Pulaski County Courthouse, Superior Court

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Hawkinsville

STATE

Georgia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic/Architectural Survey Pulaski County

DATE

October 1976

\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_ COUNTY \_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Ga. 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 type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE C. 1836

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

Taylor Hall is a frame, plantation plain style structure with Greek Revival features. It is a two-story, single pile house with a shed on the rear. There is a front, two-story portico supported by six Tuscan columns set on square brick bases which rest directly on the ground. A second story portico or balcony is supported by four simple Tuscan columns, and a door leads from the central hall of the second floor onto the balcony.

Most of the weatherboarding is beaded except around the front door, which is hand planed. It may be that the weatherboarding has been replaced except that around the door, probably because of the deteriorated condition of the building at the time of restoration. There is a gable roof and two exterior end brick chimneys in the American Bond pattern that service four fireplaces.

When acquired in 1943 by Mildred Taylor Stevens of Macon, the house was in great need of restoration. During her three decades of ownership, she succeeded in restoring the house making some alterations inside. The current owners, the Heddens, have also made some alterations. Changes in the original structure that are extant include: two windows at the back side of the upstairs central hall, these being added by Mrs. Stevens when she added bathrooms in the upstairs hall and removed the single central window. The Heddens removed the bathrooms but left the windows. The stairway in the downstairs hall has been reworked and now is entered from the parlor side of the hallway, going from front to back. It is a straight stair. The door, which was in the center of the parlor/hall wall, has been moved and one now enters the parlor immediately to the left of the front door, in front of the stair.

The rear shed originally consisted of a center porch with enclosed rooms on either end. The porch has been closed in and is the dining room. The kitchen and a dressing room are on either end. Originally, the only entrance to the shed rooms was from the center porch. According to the Lanier family, there was once a detached kitchen which was joined to the main house by a latticed walkway.

The mantels are all original. All are simple and unimpressive except the parlor mantel which is Greek Revival in style. The rooms all have paneled wainscoting. The front door is single panel and all other doors are six panel, except for a massive door from the hall to the shed which is nine panel. There is some evidence of early wall paper above the wainscoting. Upstairs, the rooms have hand-planed boards without paint or plaster, which appear to be the original condition.

The windows were all rebuilt during Mrs. Steven's restoration and are 12 over 12 lights.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

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The house is situated in the older section of Hawkinsville on half of a block, being surrounded by Kibbe Street to the north, Grace Street to the west, McDuffie Street to the south, and the other half of the block to the east. A tree lined drive leads to the house from Kibbe Street allowing much of the original setting to remain.

The grounds associated with the house began as seven acres, reached a maximum of 12 1/2 acres during the Civil War, and eventually were reduced, eliminating the cemetery which was back of the house and which is now destroyed, as well as all the original outbuildings. The only other structure on the grounds today is a doll house/storage house. Approximately four acres are included within the nomination.

# 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 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      c. 1825      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Taylor Hall is significant because it represents the formative years of both Hartford and Hawkinsville, the two county seats of Pulaski County, Georgia. The history of this house and its owners relates the early history of Pulaski County. It is thought to be the oldest house in the town of Hawkinsville, having been moved there at the town's creation; and it is a fine example of Greek Revival architecture.

Pulaski County was created in 1808 out of Laurens County from lands ceded under the Treaties of 1802 and 1805 with the Creek Indians. This land, the part of Pulaski east of the Ocmulgee River, was distributed in the Land Lottery of 1807 and settlement began shortly thereafter.

Taylor Hall was built in 1825 by Dr. Robert Newsome Taylor (1798-1852), a Virginia native who, having studied medicine in New York, settled in Pulaski County, Georgia, in the town of Hartford around 1824. Dr. Taylor felt this community "would be a good opening" and thus came there shortly after completing his studies.

Hartford, incorporated in 1811, was the county seat of Pulaski County when Dr. Taylor arrived. The town continued as a bustling community for two decades but declined after 1830 when Hawkinsville was established and most of its residents moved to the new county seat. Dr. Taylor, who married in 1825 shortly after his arrival in Hartford, acquired Lot 1, Square E, in the town and there built this home, according to tradition.

After several years in Hartford, Dr. Taylor and several others were incorporators of the new town of Hawkinsville, which had been established on the west bank of the Ocmulgee River on land ceded to Pulaski County from Dooly County in 1826. This land had been opened for settlement in the Land Lottery of 1821. Hawkinsville was incorporated in 1830 with Dr. Taylor as one of the original commissioners. Presumably at this time, he decided to move with his wife and children to this new town. Hawkinsville was not designated the county seat until 1836 and tradition places that date as the date of Dr. Taylor's removal of himself, his family, and his home from Hartford to Hawkinsville.

Taylor Hall is said to have been dismantled, with all the pieces numbered, ferried across the Ocmulgee River on barges, and re-erected on the land outside the city limits of Hawkinsville. Dr. Taylor had purchased seven acres of Lot Number 226 outside Hawkinsville in 1832. The house has remained on this property ever since being moved c. 1836. The property was not included in the city limits until 1892.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Pulaski County Superior Court, Deed Records, Pulaski County Courthouse  
 U. S. Census of 1850, Population and Agricultural Schedules  
 Measured Architectural Drawings, 1936 by Dennis and Dennis of Macon, Georgia  
 Interview with Mildred Taylor Stevens of Macon, Georgia, September 1977 by  
 Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.  
 Personal Inspection by Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., September 7, 1977

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Hawkinsville

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 267200 3573440  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet

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

Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historical Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Section October 5, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

270 Washington Street, Room 701

DATE

TELEPHONE

(404) 656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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*

TITLE

Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

6/23/78

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-17-78

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

JANN H. GUNMORE

DATE

11/16/78

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Taylor married first in 1825 Louisa Maria Taylor, a daughter of Ezekial and Nancy Kellum Taylor. Louisa's father, who died in 1825, had been a senator and representative from Pulaski County to the state legislature. Louisa died after they moved to Hawkinsville, in 1838, and was buried on their property. Dr. Taylor married again, Charlotte Exum Phillips, in 1843. By his first marriage there were five children, three of whom grew to maturity, two becoming doctors and one becoming an attorney and, briefly, County Ordinary. By the second marriage, there were four children, only one of which left descendants. After Dr. Taylor's death in 1852, his widow survived until 1878.

Dr. Taylor served his community as a physician from his arrival in the county until his death. He was also active in civic affairs, serving, as mentioned, as one of the original commissioners of Hawkinsville in 1830; as Trustee of the Hawkinsville Academy in 1831 and the Pulaski County Academy the previous year; as representative for the county at the State Constitutional Convention in 1833; and he was instrumental in founding the local masonic lodge of which he was Worshipful Master in 1845.

Dr. Taylor was also connected with the founding of Albany, Georgia, arriving there in 1836 with the party that included Nelson Tift, the founder. Although he did not move there, he did participate in a number of activities connected with the early days of this town.

In 1849, Dr. Taylor, his son Ezekial and slave Dennis, with other local men, left for the California gold fields, returning in early 1850. En route he visited Panama and San Francisco; but his health was destroyed by the trip and he died on November 27, 1852, barely two years after his return, at age 54.

Dr. Taylor had purchased the seven acres, part of Lot 226 in the fourth district, for \$40 from John Rawls, Farish Carter, James A. Everett, and Seaton Grantland - two of these men being well known figures of Milledgeville, Georgia, and all four apparently developers of the fledgling town of Hawkinsville - in 1832.

After Dr. Taylor's death in 1852, his administrator was required by law to sell his real estate and advertised it in the Georgia Journal and Messenger (published in Macon) for sale in December 1856 as "1 house and lot near Hawkinsville 4 [sic] acres more or less known as place occupied by Dr. Robert Taylor, at the time of his death" plus 130 acres nearby. The widow purchased the house and seven acres and the other 130 acres went to Mr. Batts N. Mitchell.

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NOV 2 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

Dr. Ezekial H. Taylor, son of Dr. Robert Taylor, lived there and his son, R. J. Taylor, was born there in 1854. Whether the widow continued to live there or not is not known; but she retained ownership of the house and lot during the Civil War, having added 5 1/2 acres to the property in 1860. She then sold the entire 12 1/2 acres including the house to John Fale for \$700, reserving a 1/2 acre lot, in 1869.

Two days later, Fale sold the entire property for \$5 (token) to his brother-in-law, Matthew T. Grace, Sr., in trust for Matthew, Jr., and Walter J. Grace, and any other children he might have by his wife, Elmira V. Grace. At that time, it was referred to as "the whole formerly known as Dr. Fort's Place" indicating that a Dr. Fort must have rented the place.

The house then became known as "The Grace Place" and remained in that family until the early twentieth century when it was sold to Mr. W. C. Hendley. He, in turn, in 1916, sold the back or house portion of the lot to Mr. George Budd who was a Civil War veteran and a bachelor. Mr. Budd soon invited the Charles A. Peddy family to live at the home, reserving for himself a room or two in the house. After Mr. Peddy's daughter Sarah married George C. Lanier, in 1920, they moved into the house also and their daughter was born there in 1928. After Mr. Peddy's death c. 1930, the Peddys and Laniers moved from the place since the widow Peddy refused to remain there after her husband's death. The house was vacant, then rented, and eventually deteriorated. Budd had sold it to the Laniers in 1930. He entered the Confederate Soldiers Home in Atlanta where he died in 1931.

Mr. R. J. Taylor, Sr., (1854-1939) who had been born there himself in 1854, surveyed the place as a possible nursing quarters for his newly donated R. J. Taylor Memorial Hospital in Hawkinsville, dedicated in 1938; but, although he had a Macon architect create line drawings of the house, he did not purchase the place.

His daughter, Mildred Taylor Stevens of Macon, came to the rescue of the house when she purchased the site from the Lanier family in 1943. She then restored it and used it as a retreat, often entertaining friends there.

Mrs. Stevens sold the house to the present owners, the Larry D. Heddens, in 1975. Mr. Hedden is a native of the area. They now reside there with their two children.

The house has continued to serve as a residence during its century and a half of existence and remains a focal point in the community as an example of preservation to relate in part the story of the pioneer days of Pulaski County and Hawkinsville.

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CONTINUATION SHEET      Bibliographical  
References      ITEM NUMBER      9      PAGE      2

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Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Larry Hedden of Hawkinsville, Georgia, on  
September 7, 1977

Telephone interview with Mrs. Frances Moon of Tarpon Springs, Florida, daughter  
of George Lanier, September 19, 1977

Georgia Journal and Messenger, Macon, Georgia, Vol. 34, no. 33, Wednesday,  
November 12, 1856, Advertisement for sale of the house

Taylor Family Papers and Bible Records in possession of Mrs. Mildred Taylor  
Stevens of Macon, Georgia

Pulaski County, Georgia, Tax Digests for 1824, 1827, 1829

Daughters of the American Revolution, History of Pulaski County, Georgia, 1935

Daughters of the American Revolution, History of Pulaski and Bleckley Counties,  
Georgia 1808-1956, 2 vol., 1957

Daughters of the American Revolution, History and Reminiscences of Dougherty  
County, Georgia, 1924

Georgia Laws

Mildred Taylor Stevens, compiler, Family Letters and Reminiscences (1961)  
including published supplement of Dr. R. N. Taylor's letters

Eugene C. Anderson, Financial Hero: R. J. Taylor of Macon (1964)

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CONTINUATION SHEET Geographical Data ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point at the intersection of Kibbe Street and Grace Street in the town of Hawkinsville, proceed south approximately 416 feet along Grace Street to a point at the intersection of Grace Street and McDuffie Street; thence east along McDuffie Street approximately 310 feet to a point; thence north approximately 416 feet to Kibbe Street; thence west along Kibbe Street approximately 300 feet to the beginning point.