UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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 Kilkenny
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER at the end of Kilkenny Road, 3 miles east of Georgia Highway 199
CITY, TOWN Richmond Hill
STATE Georgia
VICINITY OF

CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
__DISTRICT
X BUILDING(S)
__STRUCTURE
__SITE
__OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
__PUBLIC
__PRIVATE
__BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION
IN PROCESS
BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS
X OCCUPIED
__UNOCCUPIED
__WORK IN PROGRESS

PRESENT USE
AGRICULTURE
COMMERCIAL
EDUCATIONAL
ENTERTAINMENT
GOVERNMENT
INDUSTRIAL
MILITARY
MUSEUM
PARK
PRIVATE RESIDENCE
RELIGIOUS
SCIENTIFIC
TRANSPORTATION
OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Bowers
STREET & NUMBER Rt. 1, Box 216
CITY, TOWN Richmond Hill
STATE Georgia
VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Bryan County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Pembroke
STATE Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE Bryan County Survey
DATE 1975
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historic Preservation Section; Department of Natural Resources
CITY, TOWN Atlanta
STATE Georgia
<table>
<thead>
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<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>CHECK ONE</th>
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<tr>
<td>XEXCELLENT</td>
<td>_DETERIORATED</td>
<td>_ORIGINAL SITE</td>
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<tr>
<td>_GOOD</td>
<td>_UNALTERED</td>
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<td>_FAIR</td>
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**DESCRIPT**

The house at Kilkenny is unusual in the area because it is neither Plantation Plain nor Sand Hills Cottage style. It is a one and one-half story frame structure with a four over four room, central hall plan. Raised only slightly on brick piers enclosed with wooden lattice work, the house has been weatherboarded with the exception of the front, which has unusual vertical siding. The porch's hip roof is supported by six plain, square columns, the design of which is repeated on the small, shed-roofed side porch. The gable ends of the house have boxed cornices and returns and the main gable has a small widow's walk at its peak.

The building was considerably renovated by Henry Ford in the 1930's and has a number of more recent architectural features. The most unusual features of the house are ten (five front and back) small, horizontal, rectangular windows squeezed between the roof eaves and the porch roof, located at floor level in the interior. The side windows, with six over six lights, are topped by a plain lintel and the front windows are really double doors. The entrance is a Dutch door with a glass-paned top and three narrow, vertical lunettes. Both appear to be new.

The house is served by three identical, interior chimneys, two on the south end and one in the center of the two north rooms. A tall, narrow chimney with a triangular cap is located in one of the back shed rooms, now the kitchen.

Interior details appear to have been added during the Ford restoration as they are similar to those found in the James Massey House, another Ford effort. Ford also introduced small doors into the walls of the house which, when opened, reveal cannonball holes from Civil War bombardment. The downstairs rooms have varicolored marble mantelpieces, a deep cornice and picture moulding. The walls throughout the house are plastered and the floors are eight inch wide pine planks. An unusual interior curve (illustrated) is located between the closets of the downstairs, northwest room.

Kilkenny is located at the end of an oak avenue in the middle of a trailer park/fish camp. At least two of the other residences appear to have been part of the plantation at one time, possibly as double cabined servants' quarters, and there is an outstanding kitchen with a massive double fireplace which includes a bread oven. The exterior of this outbuilding has been weatherboarded, but the interior is virtually untouched. The pegged beams are visible and the sleeping loft is reached by stairs which climb the side of the chimney. It is one of the few pre-Civil War outbuildings still extant on the coast of Georgia.
Kilkenny is significant as a colonial settlement, a nineteenth century plantation and a part of Henry Ford's twentieth century plantation, Richmond Hill. Architecturally, it is a reflection of both its nineteenth century origins and the latter day restoration accomplished by Ford.

The beginnings of a settlement at Kilkenny go back to 1747, when Col. John Mullryne petitioned the Royal Governor's Council on behalf of several "Inhabitants of South Carolina" for land situated on a River that leads from the Ogeechee to St. Catherines Sound, it being a Neck bounded on two Sides by the Ogeechee & River Midway and opposite to the Island Ussabaw (sic) for himself & Each of the aforesaid Persons, Setting forth That they are mostly Men of easy Fortunes and are resolved to settle the Same immediately, Some in Person or others by Servants; their Intention being to carry on a considerable Trade to the West Indies and other Parts by Ship Building, Exporting of Lumber &c, and likewise the Indian Trade. and their Reason for settling in this Colony is for a nearer Communication with the Creek Nations. (Colonial Records of Georgia, Volume VI, p. 220ff)

The Council debated the request and, noting that James Maxwell and Morgan Sab, two of the petitioners "are well known to be Men of Worth and largely concerned in all Parts of the Indian Trade," decided to grant a portion of the requested property, distributing 500 acres each to Mulryne, Maxwell, Sab and John Hutchinson, holding the remainder "until their Honours Direction thereon would be shown." Apparently the South Carolinians were less successful in their plan for a thriving trading settlement. When other requests for Grants in the area were made, the Council investigated their progress. Finding that little had been accomplished, they granted the reserved land to others.

It was Maxwell's grant which appears to have formed the core of the present Kilkenny. In 1764, James Maxwell, Jr. advertised in the (Savannah) Georgia Gazette (April 12, p.1) the sale of 500 acres "where he now lives. known as Kilkenny" of which 200 acres were planted in corn and indigo and the rest pine land, situated "on a navigable creek within 6 miles of the bar of St. Catharines, any vessel that can come over the bar may load at the landing, there are also some convenient buildings thereon."

Thomas Young, son in law of James Maxwell, Jr., owned Kilkenny the following year, along with 47 slaves. As a Loyalist, Young was mentioned in the 1778 Act of Attainder and his property at Kilkenny was sold to George Cubbedge in the sales of confiscated estates for £650. Through the intervention of friends, however, his property was returned to him, although he was prohibited from voting or holding office for 17 years.

(continued)
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Personal Inspection, Victoria Reeves Gunn, August 26, 1976
U.S. Census of Population, 1850, 1860
U.S. Census of Agriculture, 1850, 1860
Bryan County Deed Books
(Savannah) Georgia Gazette, April 12, 1764

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY app. 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

Quadrangle Name: Oak Level
Scale: 1:24000

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A 1,7 4,8,0 7,4,0
B
C 3,5,16 9,5,0
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
The boundary shall be formed by a line that connects points determined to be 50 feet from any and all exterior walls of the main structure and includes the kitchen building.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 10/11/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 2/14/79
DATE 2/13/79
The executors of the will of Thomas Young conveyed Kilkenny to Dr. Charles W. Rogers of McIntosh County, Georgia in 1836. Rogers quickly reconveyed the property to his son, Rev. Charles W. Rogers, Jr., also securing a nearby plantation known as Cottenham for his other son, William M. Rogers. According to local tradition, the present house at Kilkenny was built by one of the Rogers' soon after this transaction.

Although a man of obvious wealth and prominence, little is known of Rogers and his sons. The elder Rogers died prior to 1850, leaving a substantial estate. Young Rogers seems to have spent little time in residence at Kilkenny. In 1850, although Rogers' 125 slaves are enumerated in the census, he himself does not appear as a citizen of Bryan County. His plantation primarily appears to have been producing food crops for the slaves. Yet, the next census in 1860 shows the value of the plantation to have increased five times (to $30,000) and that it is producing the largest number of bales of cotton in the county (60.) One hundred and fifty three slaves were working the plantation, but again, Rogers is not enumerated in the population census. (The entry appears as "Charles Rogers Plantation.")

In 1874, Anna M. West, "widow of Chatham County," conveyed 3,500 acres known as Kilkenny to James M. Butler. (Bryan County Deed Book K, p. 50) Since Anna West was the maiden name of Charles Rogers, Jr.'s mother, it may be assumed that the deed was in error and that the younger Rogers' mother was handling the deposition of her son's property, possibly after his death, although no estate records exist.

From this date, Kilkenny changed hands frequently, having five owners in the next 55 years, one of whom was Tennessee Governor John I. Cox. It was Cox who sold Kilkenny to Henry Ford in 1931. Ford restored and renovated a number of plantation houses which came into his possession during the 1930's, but Kilkenny appears to have been a favorite with him, as he duplicated its design in the nearby James Massey House.

Ford's entire Georgia estate was purchased by the International Paper Company in 1950. Marc Levine of Birmingham, Alabama acquired the property from the Company in 1955, later selling it to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Bowers.
Architecturally, Kilkenny is significant in that it is a rare example of a form of architecture found more prevalently in the Northeast or Midwest. Specifically, it has eyebrow windows on the second floor level, a characteristic of Greek Revival homes in those areas which is rarely, if ever, found in Georgia, where one-story cottages or two-story white-columned mansions were the prevalent Greek Revival styles. In an era where Plantation Plain styling was on the upswing and Federal styling on the wane, Kilkenny, being neither of these, is thus significant as a transitional piece of Georgia architecture.
Cooper, Ben Green, History of Bryan County, Georgia. Manuscript, on microfilm at Georgia Department of Archives and History.
Kilkenny, Richmond Hill vicinity, Bryan County, Georgia

Sketch Map
Not to Scale  
FEb 14 1979

Key: Red Line = Boundary of nominated property

JAN 3 1979

Kitchen

50 feet

MAIN HOUSE

50 feet

50 feet

50 feet