

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 23 1977
DATE ENTERED JAN 31 1978

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 J. L. Bridges Home Place

AND/OR COMMON
Louie Bridges House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
N of Lexington on GA 22

CITY, TOWN Lexington VICINITY OF 10th - Robert G. Stephens, Jr. COUNTY Oglethorpe
STATE Georgia CODE 13 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 221
Don B Baenard

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
L. R. and J. P. Bridges

STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Lexington VICINITY OF STATE Georgia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Oglethorpe County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Main Street
CITY, TOWN Lexington STATE Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Oglethorpe County Survey

DATE
1975
_FEDERAL STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources

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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Although the Bridge's house is believed to have originally been a log cabin, both by its owner and Rodgers, the author of Housing of Oglethorpe County, the building instead appears to be a small plain style framed house of one and a half stories. Studs instead of logs are evident where the rear kitchen wing is attached to one of the house's two original rooms (east room). Studs also appear where the weatherboard is loose under a window of the west room. The depth of the door mouldings, 6 inches or more, which suggested that the building was log, can be attributed instead to unusually heavy framing.

The east room and west room, the two original rooms of the house, are respectively of the dimensions 20' x 15'7" and 19'6" x 5'5". The walls and ceiling of the east room are constructed of pine planks and its walls are equipped with a dado-rail. The fireplace exhibits a mantel of the type that might be bought from a joiner's workshop or found in a pattern book. Its exterior chimney is of dressed granite, of sloping rather than stepped shoulders, with a brick stack. The exterior north wall (porch wall) is covered in overlapping, beaded weatherboard.

It appears that the east and west rooms were constructed by different owners approximately five to ten years apart. The ceiling of the East room is 8' 10", lower than the ten-eleven foot ceiling of the West Room. According to the owner, a double floor in the portion of the attic above the east room compensates for the difference in ceiling heights. While the workmanship in the east room is undistinguished, the west room exhibits fine woodworking. The walls, which have never been painted, are constructed of wide, beaded pine planks and are without a dado-rail. Instead of the pine plank ceiling found in the east room, the ceiling exhibits beaded rafters. The doors are equipped with six, deeply beveled panels and have quarter round mouldings on the stiles, though the door frame and window mouldings are simple. While the fireplace of the east room is level, that of the west room is arched with a flat wooden surround arched to follow the line of the masonry. Its mantel, which appears to be home-made, consists of a shelf with rounded corners supported by small brackets. Its exterior, sloping chimney is of Flemish bond. A small lozenge design with a little figure in its middle, worked into the lozenge with darker headers, appears on the chimney. A fine, enclosed, paneled staircase in which both the soffit and vertical surface have raised, beveled stiles between long panels, leads from this room into the attic loft-room while the east room only contains a ladder leading to the loft. A door under the staircase is of paneled heartpine with the strong grain on the panel forming a mirror image of that on the opposite panel. The exterior north wall of the west room is covered with the wide, shiplapped pine planks, instead of the beaded weatherboard of the east room's exterior north wall. Because of the porch treatment and the presence of a fine staircase, it can be conjectured that the east room antedates the west room.

The front door opens into the west room, which was probably the original parlor, the other room having been a bedroom. The enclosed, winding stair to the loft rises from this room and doors also lead from there to the back porch and east room. The house always had a protal front porch, as shown by the shiplapped boards there. This veranda has old, chamfered posts. A shed room, which may not be original, stands on the west side of the building, accessible from the back porch. Additions include a front bedroom on the east side equipped with a fireplace and chimney; a rear wing which includes the present-day kitchen and ends in a little pantry. Another addition which is now gone, consisted of a projecting front room which created two projecting front wings in conjunction with the

(continued)

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present front room. The house rests on granite piers, except on the west side, where there is a continuous brick foundation on either side of the brick chimney. Other than these additions and the substitution of late nineteenth century locks and shingles for the originals, this house has not been altered.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
___1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES by 1795

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In addition to being one of less than a handful of surviving 18th century houses in Oglethorpe County (and in the Piedmont, for that matter), this little plain style house also evidences some of the best workmanship. The paneling of the enclosed stair may be unique in Georgia, as also the flame design in the panels of the delightful little door under the stair. It is instructive to compare this house of 1795 or earlier with the Amis-Elder house, c.1805, also in Oglethorpe County. The woodwork in the former shows an earlier taste and earlier plane bits: quarter-round moldings on the door stiles in the Bridges house compared to quirked moldings in the Amis-Elder; simple door and window moldings compared to rather elaborate. The exposed rafters must be counted a somewhat early or frontier style, compared to smooth board ceilings. The brick chimney is of special significance, as the unequal little lozenge done in grey headers is, so far as we know, the earliest such design yet discovered in Georgia.

It appears from the deeds that the original part of the house--the two rooms side by side, with front porch, and back porch with shed room--was standing by 1795. The deed of Charles McCartney's purchase of the tract is not recorded, but in September of 1795 Charles and Nancy McCartney sold to Charles Stewart for "five hundred pounds good and lawful money" 200 acres on the waters of Millstone Creek (Oglethorpe County deed book A 342). This was the year in which federal decimal coinage replaced the pound, and while it is hard to determine the value of the pound in relation to the dollar, at this time they were probably nearly equal, the pound worth perhaps a little more than the new dollar. In 1798 Stewart sold the place to Beverly Guthery for \$700 (C 201), an amount probably about equal to, or a little more than the 500 pounds of 1795. A value of 500 pounds or \$700 is more than the acreage would be worth unimproved or with a log cabin on it, but less than it would bring with a two-story frame house. But then, this little one-and-a-half story house is smaller than a two-story. It appears that the house, plus of course a kitchen and some sheds, was on the place when McCartney sold to Stewart.

In 1837 the tract was sold by William Collins, in right of his wife, nee' Nancy Guthery (P 288, S 456) and belonged successively, with additions and subtractions of acreage, to Elijah Walker, Elizabeth Carrithers, James B. Smith, and Augustus D. Mathews (Q, 368, S 48, W 232). In 1872 Mathews sold it (\$1,000 for 307 1/2 acres) to J. L. Bridges, great uncle of the present owner, Louie Bridges (W 282). (The chain of title in The Housing of Oglethorpe County is incorrect.) Here in this old house Louie Bridges lives as in the old times, without phone or car. In his younger days Louie was a woodsman, a great hunter and trapper. In the fall a neighbor helps him butcher a hog; a box trap for rabbits, baited with apple pieces, waits near the garden.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rogers, Ava D., The Housing of Oglethorpe County, Georgia 1790-1860, Tallahassee, 1971, p.15.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 8

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	31,28,8,0	3,75,65,4,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A rectangle approximately 518 feet by 1036 feet of 8 acres whose northwest side runs along the east right-of-way line of the road (not named) intersecting S899, just north of the intersection of S899 with S2164. This unnamed road intersects the driveway that leads to the Bridges cabin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

Ken Phom...

NAME/TITLE Ms. Mara Gelbloom, Architectural Historian
Mrs. Patricia Irvin Cooper, Research Consultant

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources September, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

270 Washington Street, S.W., Room 701

404-656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Atlanta

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

David M. Sherman
DAVID M. SHERMAN

DATE

5-22-77

TITLE Chief, Historic Preservation Section

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

Charles Adams

DATE

1-31-78

DATE

1-31-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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J. L. Bridges Home Place, Lexington, Oglethorpe County
Photographs by: David J. Kaminsky
Date: September, 1976
Negatives filed at: Department of Natural Resources

1. Front facade, looking south.
2. West Chimney.
3. East Chimney.
4. Paneled stair in west room.
5. Mantel in west room.
6. Front door.