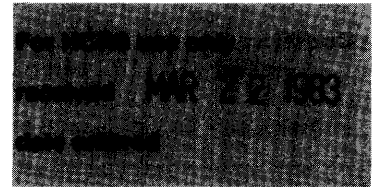


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**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 Hillcrest

and/or common Cedar Hall

**2. Location**

street & number 706 Beech Street N/A not for publication

city, town Cochran N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Georgia code 013 county Bleckley code 023

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name James C. Usry, Sr. and James C. Usry, Jr.

street & number P. O. Box 734

city, town Cochran N/A vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Georgia 31014

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Bleckley County Courthouse

city, town Cochran state Georgia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historic Structures Field Survey  
Bleckley County, Georgia has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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

Hillcrest is a two-story, early-twentieth century Neoclassical style house located on a large landscaped lot in Cochran. The rectangular house has a rear kitchen ell with a partly enclosed back porch. It is weatherboarded, with a hipped roof, sits on a brick foundation and has four tall corbeled chimneys. The front facade has a massive two-story entrance portico, with oversized columns with Ionic Capitals and a decorated pediment, and a one-story wrap-around porch with a balcony resting on the porch roof in the portico area. An entablature with a bracketed cornice wraps around the entire house. Windows are one-over-one double hung sash, some with leaded glass in the upper sash; the front entrance has double doors and sidelights with beveled glass and leaded overlights. The interior features a variation of a four-over-four room plan with large central halls on both floors. Downstairs, the front hall is separated from the rear stair hall by an open room divider with arched openings supported by Ionic columns resting on paneled plinths. The main open three-run stairway is finely crafted with turned balusters and square newels topped with urns. Other downstairs features include paneled wainscoting in the hall, drawing room and dining room, three fire-places with oak mantels, pocket doors between rooms and built in china cabinets and a bay window in the dining room. What was probably the original kitchen has been converted into a bedroom, bathroom and closet; the present kitchen is located in an enclosed section of the back porch. On the second floor are three bedrooms, all with fireplaces, and two baths. The central hall is subdivided by French doors; its rear section has tongue-and-groove wainscoting and the front section has a cross plan formed by four corner closets with curved walls. Finishing details include plastered ceilings and walls and pine floors. Some original lighting fixtures are still in place. The house was renovated in the 1970's after years of neglect and subdivision into three apartments. Hillcrest is located on a spacious corner lot atop a hill. The grounds are landscaped with lawn, cedar trees and other hardwoods, flowering trees, shrubs and gardens. A walk paved with hexagonal tiles leads from Beach Street to the main entrance; a low brick retaining wall runs along Beech Street; and a long drive leads up to the house from 7th Street. A 1960's garage/workshop, located along the rear property line, is the only outbuilding. Adjacent to the property is a large house of slightly earlier date originally occupied by the first owner's parents. The house is located only a few blocks from the main streets through Cochran.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local history
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1910 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Hillcrest is significant in terms of Georgia's architectural and local history. Architecturally, Hillcrest is a fine example of a turn-of-the-century Neoclassical style house in Cochran. This style was particularly popular in Georgia at a time when many communities were experiencing a period of rapid growth and prosperity and it was frequently selected for new homes by prominent families. Hillcrest exhibits many typical features of a high style Neoclassical house: an imposing front facade with a monumental portico, large rooms, and interior detailing such as paneled wainscoting, built-in dining room cabinets and stairs and room dividers with Classical details including Ionic columns and urns. In terms of local history, the house is significant for its association with the John Joseph Taylor and John Augustus Walker families. John Joseph Taylor (1855–1917) was for some years Cochran's leading businessman, originally owner of a general store and later president of the Cochran Banking Company and a local cotton mill, builder of Cochran's opera house and organizer and stockholder in an oil mill and warehouse. Taylor, who lived in the house next door, built "Hillcrest" as a wedding present for his daughter Alice when she married John Augustus Walker on January 12, 1910. Walker was connected with the Cochran Banking Company and served as Postmaster from 1933 to 1941. Cochran, county seat of Bleckley County from its creation in 1912, had been incorporated in 1869. Hillcrest is representative of the fine houses that were built there in the early years of the twentieth century at a time when the town was experiencing a period of rapid growth and prosperity that caused the area to push for designation as a separate county. The Walkers raised two daughters in the house and it remained in the family until 1965. In 1970 it was purchased by Dr. Virlon Griner, pastor of Cochran's First Baptist Church, who began the restoration of the house and grounds by converting it from apartments back to a single family dwelling. It was sold to the current owners in 1981.

These areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register Criteria B and C.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.3 acres

Quadrangle name Cochran, GA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

1	7	2	7	8	8	0	0	3	5	8	6	3	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property is marked by a heavy black line on the enclosed plat recorded in Bleckley County Plat Book 2, page 309. It is all that has been historically associated with this property.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian

organization Historic Preservation Section  
Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources date 3/7/1983

street & number 270 Washington Street 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

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

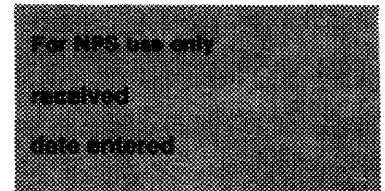
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 3/15/83

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the
<u>Shelores Byers</u>	National Register
Keeper of the National Register	date <u>4/21/83</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Major Bibliographical  
References

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

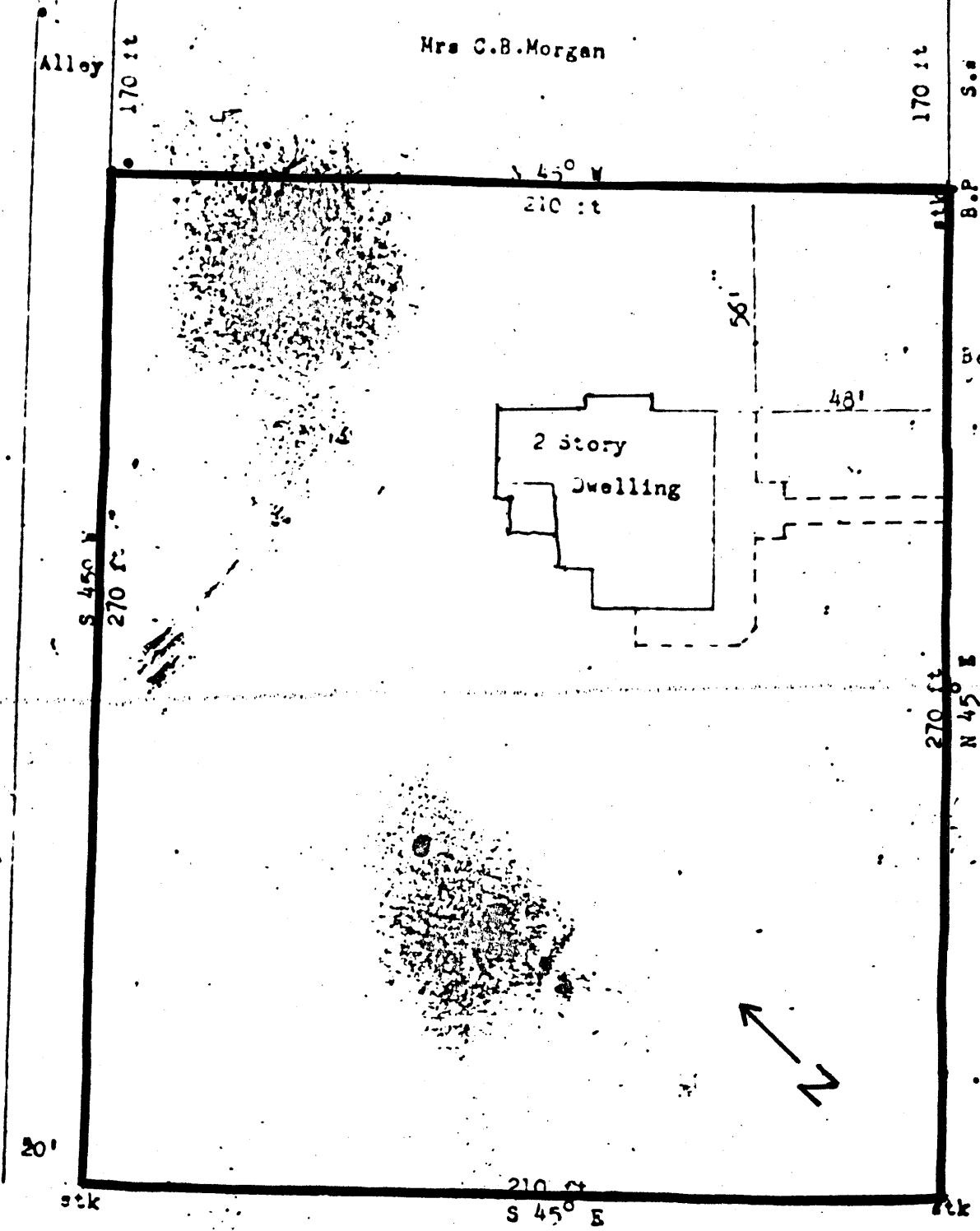
Page 2

Material submitted by the owner based on interviews with previous owners, Mrs. Lida Taylor and Mr. John Turner.

Harris, Mrs. Wallace L. and Hawkinsville Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. History of Pulaski and Bleckley Counties, Georgia, 1808-1956 2 v. 1957-58.

Committee for Cochran-Bleckley Centennial Celebration  
Cochran-Bleckley Centennial, 1869-1969.

Vert



On original:  
 Plat Book 2, page 309  
 Filed for record Sept 29, 1965  
 Recorded same date.

This plat represents a survey made September 4th 1965 of a Dwelling and a tract of land in the City of Cochran, Bleckley County, Georgia. Survey made for Mrs Alice M. Taylor as Grantor and Benny O & Gynelle M. Stokes as Grantee.

Sketch Map/Plat Map

Hillcrest  
 Cochran, Bleckley County, Georgia  
 Scale: 1" = 40'  
 Source: Bleckley County, Ga. Plat Book 2,  
 p. 309  
 Date: 1965.  
 Key: The nominated property is marked  
 with a heavy black line.

*Robert Hamill*  
 Surveyor