

1105
JUL 14 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Dr. John C. Nevil House
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number US 301
city, town Register (x) vicinity of
county Bulloch code GA 031
state Georgia code GA zip code 30452

(n/a) not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	3	2
sites	1	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	4	2

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Signature of certifying official

7/12/89
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

Keeper of the National Register

entered in the National Register

Helena Lyon 8/14/89

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC:single dwelling
HEALTH CARE:medical office
AGRICULTURE:processing

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC:single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE VICTORIAN

Materials:

foundation brick, concrete
walls wood
roof metal
other

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Dr. John C. Nevil House consists of a large, two-story frame, main house constructed in the Victorian-eclectic style with four outbuildings, two of which, the smokehouse, and the doctor's office, are historic. The house exemplifies various types of typical late 19th-century embellishments, including turned porch posts on the balcony and widow's walk, scalloped gable shingles, brick corbeling atop the chimneys, lighting rods, and a wrap-around one story porch.

The nominated property includes the house which sits in a rural setting on a slight knoll surrounded by farmland and a historic pecan grove. The front yard is enclosed by a historic metal fence dating from the construction of the house. Immediate landscaping around the structures features a few informally placed trees.

The Dr. John C. Nevil House is of wood frame construction on a brick pier and concrete foundation. The roof is covered in pressed metal with multiple roof lines. Roof features include projecting gables on front and side facades. The roof is surmounted by a widow's walk and the gable on the front facade is slightly cantilevered. The one story wrap-around porch is supported by round columns. The residence began as a small three room house built in 1902 with a two-story addition added to the front around 1910. The doctor's office and smokehouse were also built around this time period.

The house is highly detailed with various millwork ornamentation including turned porch posts in the balustrade of the second floor balcony and widow's walk, and decorative wood shingles in gables and attic vents. Windows are 2/2 and feature simple wood surrounds. The front facade includes a pedimented entrance which designates the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

entrance door and sidelight arrangements. The second floor balcony features a narrow door and a 2/2 sidelight arrangement.

Interior room arrangement includes a central hall with two rooms on each side of the hallway in the front portion of the house. The stairway in the hall is decorated with carved balustrades and turned newel posts. The rear of the house and second floor feature more informal room arrangements and are used as the den and kitchen areas.

The original interior finishes of tongue-and-groove board walls and ceilings remain in several of the rooms (photographs 10-12). Others have been remodeled with contemporary paneling and acoustical tile ceilings; original pine floors remain throughout the structure. Wall surfaces on the first floor have wainscoting and simple cornice lines. The central hallway is elaborately detailed with a lattice screen division. Interior door features fluted trim molding and corner blocks. The second floor rooms are more modestly detailed with the absence of any wall treatment on the tongue-and-groove walls. The original fireplaces feature mirrored overmantels, latticework, pilasters and cast-iron fire boxes (photographs 8-10).

In contrast to the elaborate residence, the detached historic outbuildings are modestly detailed. There are four outbuildings, although only the doctor's office (c. 1902) and the smokehouse (c. 1910) are historic. The one story frame doctor's office is sheathed in weatherboard with 6/3 windows and a front door that was formerly one side of a double door arrangement used in a commercial building. The building's roof is metal and features a boxed cornice and return. The gabled entrance is recessed to form the front porch and is supported by chamfered posts with side balustrades and turned posts. Interior materials include wood plank floors, walls and ceilings (photograph 5).

The smokehouse is a historic building sheathed in weatherboard and covered with a metal gabled roof which extends into sheds on each side of the structure (photograph 6).

To the north of the Nevil house stands a historic pecan grove having been planted over 57 years ago. The surrounding farmland which comprises the historic core of the Nevil farm and the pecan grove still remains within the same family (photograph 3).

The two nonhistoric buildings include the outdoor kitchen built in 1976 and the frame barn built in 1930. Although the barn was a replacement for the original barn that formerly stood on this site, it is considered noncontributing because of the alterations made within the last five years, such as new siding, flooring, posts, and doors.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7

The one story, frame outdoor kitchen was added to the property a few years ago for the purpose of holding family cookouts and gatherings.

Changes to the Nevil house were also made in 1976 and include adding bathrooms, a den, new paneling, ceiling tiles, and concrete infill to the brick pier foundation.

The nine acres nominated for the Dr. John C. Nevil House remain within the Nevil family.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

architecture
health/medicine

Period of Significance:

1902-1931

Significant Dates:

1902, 1910

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Builder:

Butler Barr

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

ARCHITECTURE

The Dr. John C. Nevil Home is significant in architecture because it is a fine example of the use of the Victorian-eclectic style, so prevalent in the late 19th century, for a house in the first decade of the 20th century. The 1910 house embodies the important overall massing of this type of house with its two-story, frame construction with a wrap-around porch, corbelled chimneys, and with its interior details: original stairs, mantels, wood floors and room arrangement. An especially fine surviving feature is the lattice screen in the hallway. The Nevil house is of wood frame construction on a brick pier and concrete block foundation, typical of rural Georgia houses. Its symmetrical massing features projecting gables on the front and side facades. The craftsmanship of the exterior is seen by the turned porch and balcony balusters, widow's walk, decorative attic vents, scalloped wood gable shingles and brick corbelled chimneys. The front facade includes a pedimented entrance and both the first and second floor entrances feature sidelights. The building's interior retains a central hall plan, original pine floors, decorative stair balusters, hallway latticework, tongue-and-groove walls and ceilings, and ornate fireplace mantels and surrounds. The Nevil house is also significant for its association with a local builder, Butler Barr, and illustrates the type of pattern book houses constructed by local craftsmen during this time period. The minor alterations that have been made to the Nevil residence have not changed the character of the house. As a result, the house remains a good example of the Victorian-eclectic style of architecture used in south Georgia. The property is also significant because of two historic outbuildings, the simple gabled front doctor's office located near the side of the house and the family's smokehouse. Nevil's office is a modestly detailed one-story, frame structure with a metal roof. Built in 1902, the one room office is sheathed in weatherboard with a 6/3 window arrangement. The entrance door is located in the gabled end and is recessed to form the front porch. The front facade includes chamfered porch posts and turned balustrades. This intact office is an excellent example of the type of building used for a country medical practice. Interior materials are simple wood plank floors, walls and ceiling. The 1910 wood-sided smokehouse is covered with a metal gabled roof which extends into sheds on each side of the structure. Both the doctor's office and the smokehouse are typical building types that were used in the south during the turn-of-the-century.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

MEDICINE

The property is significant in medicine because it contains the home and office of a country doctor whose practice covered a large rural population. The house also served as a pharmacy. From this house Dr. Nevil would have journeyed to see most of his patients over a sixteen square mile area. He purposely moved from the town of Register to the country to practice medicine and farm. He worked in the area for 53 year serving the rural areas between the towns of Register and Claxton.

National Register Criteria

Criteria A

The Dr. John C. Nevil House meets Criteria A because it falls into the broad patterns of American history, in particular medical history, due to its association with a small rural medical practice which began at the turn-of-the-century. The medical office/pharmacy operation of Dr. John C. Nevil represents the evolution of a medical practice in the rural south starting from 1900. Dr. Nevil purposely moved from the small town of Register to the country to practice medicine and farm. His rural practice included a sixteen mile area which in the early years was traveled by horse and buggy. The Nevil property is associated with the events of an active physician and farmer who provided medical services to a rural community for 53 years.

Criteria C

The Dr. John C. Nevil House meets National Register Criteria C because of its architectural significance as a Victorian-eclectic design, and for the building types of two historic outbuildings. The Nevil home is characteristic of an eclectic form of architecture commonly found in south Georgia during the turn-of-the-century. The building facade features highly detailed millwork ornamentation as seen in the widow's walk and porch balustrades and scalloped wood gable shingles. The interior central hall plan features a lattice screen, carved stair balustrade and newel posts, decorative fireplace mantels and surrounds, and tongue-and-groove paneling. The plain styled doctor's office which also served as a rural pharmacy is an intact example of the type of structure which house the practice of a country physician. The smokehouse is also representative of the type of processing structure used on small farms in rural Georgia during the early 20th century.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

1902-construction of the original three room Nevil House and the one room doctor's office
1931-established pecan grove

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

Dr. John C. Nevil was born in Register, Georgia in 1873. He was the son of a farmer and one of 12 children. He graduated from the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta in 1900 and returned to Register that same year to marry Eva Williams. The Nevil's raised two sons and three daughters.

Initially, Nevil worked with a doctor in Register, but soon moved to the subject property. On May 3, 1902, he purchased 4 3/5 acres from W. B. Akins. Other land purchases were made eventually totalling 572 acres.

Nevil moved from Register to the country to practice medicine since there was no doctor between Register and Claxton. Register is a small community located in Bulloch County to the northwest of the Nevil property and Claxton is a city located to the south in Evans County. Dr. Nevil provided medical services to an area approximately 16 miles square traveling at first by horse and buggy. The doctor also grew tobacco, corn, peanuts, and cotton on his farm.

According to family members, Nevil first built a modest three room dwelling as his residence. Around 1910, a two-story addition was constructed by a local builder, Butler Barr, and the original dwelling was moved and attached to the rear of the new house. From the exterior it is impossible to detect the separate structures.

Nevil was also a partner in a general mercantile establishment located south of his residence. The store building was later demolished and some of the materials reused in the construction of a detached doctor's office beside his residence. The front door of the office came from these materials. Nevil also used the office as a rural pharmacy.

Deed records show that Nevil mortgaged 340 acres of his property along with his residence on January 1, 1917. These records note that the described property included "the place whereon said John C. Nevil now resides." A plat of the property attached to the loan document shows

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

that the residence was situated on a public road with the same orientation as exists today.

The landscape character formerly included two cedar trees which stood on each side of the entrance gate along the metal fence which surrounds the house. A second fenced area enclosed a flower garden and was situated in front of the existing metal fence. The yard was absent of grass and maintained as a dirt "swept yard." In the 1930s the driveway location was changed. U.S. Highway 301 was built in front of the house during this time. According to the current owners, the pecan grove has been in existence for over 57 years.

Dr. Nevil died in an automobile accident in 1953 at the age of 80, ending 53 years of medical service to this rural community. His wife, Eva, had past away in 1951. At the time of his death, his property holdings totalled approximately 700 acres. The property was inherited by the children and in 1977, John Paul Nevil, the youngest son, purchased a portion of the property from the estate. His purchase included the residence and surrounding nine acres. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Nevil continue to reside on the property today.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Jaeger, Dale. "Historic Property Information Form - Dr. John C. Nevil House." 1986. (On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources).

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (x) N/A

- () preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- () previously listed in the National Register
- () previously determined eligible by the National Register
- () designated a National Historic Landmark
- () recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- () recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- (x) State historic preservation office
- (x) Other State Agency - DOT
- () Federal agency
- () Local government
- () University
- () Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 9 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 417400 Northing 3572225

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is situated approximately one mile south of Interstate 16 on the west side of US Highway 301. The National Register property boundary is indicated by a heavy black line on the property aerial map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the house, the doctor's office, a historic pecan grove as well as some farm buildings. This is the historic core of the Nevil farm which still remains in the same family.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lisa Raflo, National Register Researcher
organization Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334
telephone 404-656-2840 **date** 7/10/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ PHOTOGRAPHS Page 1

DR. JOHN C. NEVIL HOMEPLACE

Register, Bulloch County, Georgia

Photographer: James R. Lockhart

Negative: Filed with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Date photographed: October 1988

Description:


- 1 of 12: Front facade of the John C. Nevil Homeplace, decorative metal fence; photographer facing west.
- 2 of 12: Front facade view of house, metal fence, and barn/garage; photographer facing southwest.
- 3 of 12: Front facade and south side view of house, metal fence, and pecan grove; photographer facing northwest.
- 4 of 12: Rear facade view of house and weatherboard smokehouse; photographer facing southeast.
- 5 of 12: South facade view of house and one-story doctor's office; photographer facing northwest.
- 6 of 12: Rear facade view of house and weatherboard smokehouse; photographer facing northeast.
- 7 of 12: Central hallway first floor, decorative latticework partition; photographer facing west.
- 8 of 12: First floor back bedroom; photographer facing southeast.
- 9 of 12: Living room, decorative fireplace; photographer facing northeast.
- 10 of 12: First floor, front bedroom, decorative castiron firebox; photographer facing northwest.
- 11 of 12: Second floor front bedroom; photographer facing southeast.
- 12 of 12: Second floor storage space, tongue and groove wall paneling; photographer facing southwest.

Dr. John C. Nevil House
Register, Bulloch Co., Georgia

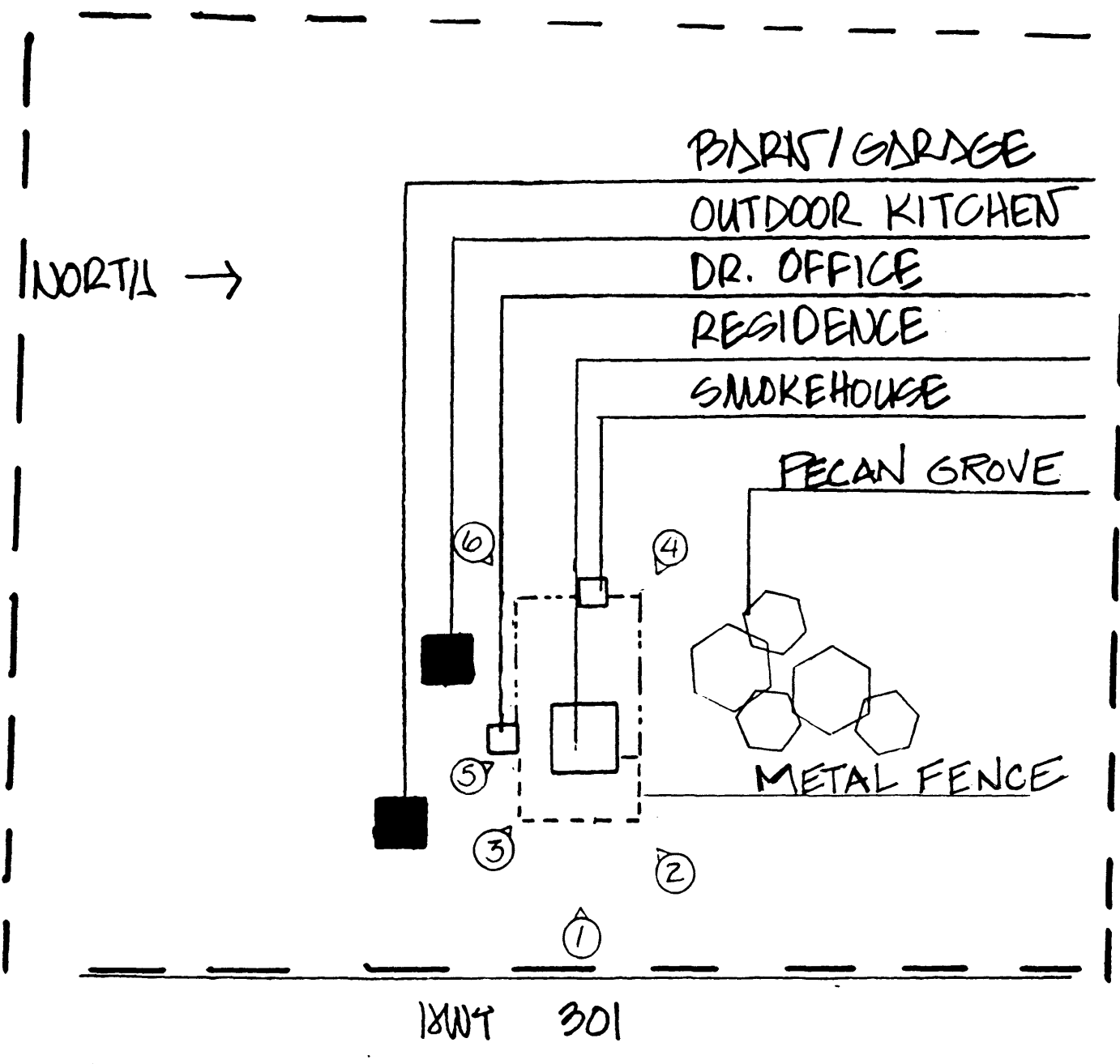
AERIAL MAP

Scale 1" = 200'

Boundary = 

North: 





Dr. John C. Nevil House
Register, Bulloch Co., Georgia

SKETCH MAP - SITE PLAN

- Scale: not to scale
- Photos: locations indicated by numbers ③
- Contributing Property □
- Noncontributing Property ■
- Boundary: — — — — —

Dr. John C. Nevil House
Register, Bulloch Co., Georgia

Floor Plan - Second Floor

Scale: not to scale

Photos: locations indicated by
numbers

North: 