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DESCRIBE THE FRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IT known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The plantation estate known as Goodwood is located on a tract of land which was originally part of the Lafayette grant. Supposedly completed in 1839, the house was begun in 1834 for Bryan H. Croom by architect George Anderson. The house is constructed on massive but simple lines, built in Georgian style, and of square design. On the grounds of this estate were once found a private race track, formal English gardens, bridle paths, and winding carriage drives.

Numerous out-buildings surround the principal structure at Goodwood. Among these are included seven guest cottages-modern stucco buildings which replaced the original wooden structures. A barn replaced the original carriage house during extensive reconstruction work completed in 1913 by the owner, Mrs. Fannie Tiers who also is responsible for replacement of the original tower on the house, as well as numerous other alterations. The carriage house, a frame structure, once was surrounded by three stables. One of the stables was later converted to living quarters for servants. A water tower, approximately 65 feet high, and a carriage house containing a large electric clock make up the remaining outlying buildings found on the estate. Acreage of the property including only the house and outlying buildings is estimated at 9 acres; while the estate in its entirety covers a total of 150 acres.

Reconstruction on the original mansion was begun in 1972 and said to have been completed in 1913. Among the alterations made were removal of iron grille work and replacement with columns to support the front porch; an addition to the back of the house for use as a kitchen; replacement of the original cupola with one in octagonal shape which resembles the one at Mount Vernon; and numerous structural changes such as removal of some doors leading outside. The original kitchen was situated northwest of the mansion, and this building now serves as an additional cottage.

The two-story house includes a basement and attic. The exterior is constructed of brick covered with cement stucco to simulate stonework. Exterior walls are two feet thick, and in some cases, three feet thick. Hand hewn timber which was used in the construction adds interest to the house. "The main portion of the house is approximately 55 feet square, with exterior bearing walls and two longitudinal interior bearing partitions which form a central hall on the ground floor and define circulation space on the second and third floors. On the ground floor, living spaces were planned as formal reception room and parlor on one side of the central hallway, and dining room and library on the other." The facade consists of a veranda which extends " across the front and columns which rise one story. The entrance is flanked by three columns on each side. Above

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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7. Description

the paneled central door, with one window on either side, is a rectangular transom. The door, of heart pine, contains rectangular lights and features silver hinges. The house also features a spindle-type balustrade across the entire front at both levels. A centrally located pavilion with double doors and half-moon transom at the second level terminates in a classic pediment and fan light. A modillioned cornice encircles the house below the roof line, and is repeated inside the pediment.

The building has a hip roof, with the ridge cut off to form a flat deck which is surrounded by a balustrade. Atop the deck is found the octagonal cupola added by Mrs. Tiers.

A central entrance hall which measures approximately 50 feet in length is a notable feature of the house. The elliptical shaped staircase which is made of rosewood is located at one side of the hall, and with rooms located on each side of the central hallway, the floor plan is symmetrical. The stair extends from the first floor to the attic and is both curved and straight. It contains niches supposedly for the placement of candles, was made by English craftsmen.

Frescoed ceilings in the downstairs rooms were the work of European artists, and remain in remarkably good condition today. The second floor consists of a central hall and five bedrooms, with bathrooms which were later additions. Each room contains an Italian marble fireplace.



PERIOD (Check One or More as			
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The land on which Goodwood stands is a part of the township granted to General Lafayette in appreciation of his assistance to the United States during the Revolutionary War. In 1834, the land granted to Lafayette was sold by his heirs and was purchased by Hardy Bryan Croom. Croom's brother, Bryan H. Croom also purchased extensively in the Leon County, and Gadsden County areas. The estate known as Goodwood was parceled into sections 20, 27, 28 and 29 of township lN, range lE--the Lafayette Township. Because of indecision related to a permanent settlement on the property, one brother and his family went north and on return were drowned. The surviving brother, Bryan H. Croom became involved in a lengthy lawsuit in which another relative challenged Bryan's claim to the estate. Apparently during the legal entanglements which spanned a twenty year period, Bryan occupied the house at Goodwood. The litigation was finally settled in 1858 and Miss Henrietta Smith was declared the legal heir of the property. (The Croom-Smith-Armistead suit as filed in Supreme Court records is a significant legal action since from this litigation came the "first-impression" decision which determines the survivorship-rights in event of a common disaster at sea.)

The house was sold by Miss Smith to Arvah Hopkins. The house then passed on to a Dr. W.L. Arrowsmith, a man of mystery and an Englishman whose adventures add an air of excitement to the history of the house. It was Arrowsmith who supposedly added many furnishings and objects of artistic interest which came from Europe. After Arrowsmith died, the house was sold to a Mrs. Fanny Tiers, supposedly one of the richest women in the world at that time (1911). Mrs. Tiers made many of the changes noted at Goodwood today. In 1924-1925 the house was again sold--this time to Senator and Mrs. W.C. Hodges. Mrs. Hodges remarried, after her husband died and continues to occupy Goodwood with her husband, Thomas Hood.

The estate itself was <u>designed</u> in many ways as a selfsustaining village. The family had only to step outside the front door of the house for various forms of entertainment.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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8. Significance

A private race track was a part of the estate's attractions; formal English gardens were in abundance on the estate; bridle paths and winding carriage drives made up some of the other features.

Due to the hospitality of the Hodges, the house became a haven for legislators during their stay in Tallahassee. Senator and Mrs. Hodges welcomed their guests frequently and warmly and the house has continued to maintain an air of grand hospitality up to the present time.



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