Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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COUNTY:	

Jackson

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	Great Oaks				C.	100		
	AND/OR HISTORIC:				NATI	ONAL		
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	Bryan Mansion				, negr	SIE / /	***	
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4	OWNER OF PROPERTY							
	OWNER'S NAME:		<u> </u>		•		3333 <b>7</b>	S
						L	_	<sup>™</sup>
	Mr. Claude Reese	<u></u>					-1	귊
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	Great Oaks			STATE:		CODE	<u>.</u>	- 1
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CONDITION    Check One   Check One	DESCRIPTION	T			(Check One)	,	
(Check One)	COMPLETION	Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	Deteriorate	d 🗌 Ruins	Unexposed
TY Altered Unglered Moved TY Original Site	CONDITION		(Check O	ne)		(Ch	eck One)
Moved (X) Original Site		X Alter	ed	Unaltere	d	Moved	Original Site

The Bryan Mansion, begun in 1857 and completed in 1861, is typical of the ante-bellum mansions of this area. The house represents a twentieth century restoration with minor alterations on the interior for adaptation to contemporary living. A full two stories in height, the house has ten rooms and two wide halls. It is of frame construction with a hipped roof which was originally covered with cypress shingles. The structure is fronted by a two story portico with eight fluted columns of the Doric order and an entabla-A two story bay projects into the portico with a ture above. balcony on the upper level. / The balustrade is hand carved wood and is carried on brackets with pendills. Five elongated six light sash windows are set into the walls of the bay. There are full length louvered shutters on all the windows. The main entrance consists of a double door with transom, sidelights and framing pilasters. The house, which originally stood on piers, is now underpinned and filled in with brick. The original wood porch has been replaced with a brick one.

On the interior of the house, sheet rock has replaced plaster over wooden lathes. Wainscoting and cornices below the ceiling have been added where they did not previously exist. Original fireplaces have been retained, as have closets which are atypical of houses of this period. At the rear of the house, porch placement and room division have been altered somewhat to accommodate a kitchen and create some smaller rooms of a utilitarian nature.



Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	,
PECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applical	ole and Known) C.	1857	
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	Education	Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
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Conservation	Music	Transportation	111

Great Oaks Plantation, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Reese, represents the total restoration of a pre-Civil War mansion. The house was purchased with restoration in mind. Termites and weather conditions had caused considerable damage to the structure and the major repairs lay in strengthening the foundation and tearing out crumbling plaster. In the course of restoration, electric lighting, central heating and air-conditioning were installed. The house, including floors and ceilings, is constructed of yellow heart pine and the columns are of pine also. As much as possible of the original timber and window glass has been retained.

Great Oaks Plantation, which is so named because of the row of oaks which line the road in front of it, was completed in 1861. A receipt dated July 13, 1861 in the amount of \$5,500.00 was given by Hamilton Bryan to his contractor Issac Jeffreys "in full payment for building of a dwelling house . The previous year, Hamilton had paid William J. Mexcer \$100.00 for the shingles to be used on the roof. The house was actually contracted by Hamilton Bryan to be built on land which his father, Elijah had left to him. Hamilton presumably built the house for the occupancy of his mother and eleven sisters, all of whom were younger. It was originally situated in the middle of a large working plantation which flourished with the labor of slaves. The house apparently escaped being ransacked during the Confederate retreat over the Chipola River when even bridge planking was torn up.

Great Oaks Plantation represents some of the best features of the Greek Revival style of architecture and yet it is reflective of a type of dwelling which seems to have been indigenous to the plantation societies of the South. That is to say, it is not Greek Revival architecture in its purest form, but rather an adaptation, probably the work of a local artisan, to the demands of a self-sustaining aristocracy.

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- 1	tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law					National Basistan							
	89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion						1		_	, (	4		
- [	in the National Register and certify that it has been					(12) 1 / 141.							
ļ	evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set					- Owner in 4 they							
Ì	forth by the National Park Service. The recommended						Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation						
	level of significance of this nomination is:												
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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	Florida	
COUNTY	Jackson	
	FOR NPS USE ONL	Υ.
E	NTRY NUMBER	DATE
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(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

## 9. BIBLIOGRAPHY.

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- Jackson County Records. Jackson County Courthouse, Marianna, Florida. Office of the County Judge. (Subgroup: Estate papers of Hamilton Bryan).
- Jackson County Records. Jackson County Courthouse, Marianna, Florida. Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. (Subgroup: Deeds).
- Stanley, J. Randall. <u>History of Jackson County</u>. Jackson County Historical Society, 1950.



