

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PHO 693 197

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DEC 12 1978
DATE ENTERED JAN 29 1979

**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

Strathy Hall

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

SE of Richmond Hill

STREET & NUMBER

on the Ogeechee River, 1/2 mile east of Georgia Highway 199 and five miles southeast of the intersection of U. S. Highway 17 and Georgia 199.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Richmond Hill

VICINITY OF

1st - Bo Ginn

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Georgia

CODE

13

COUNTY

Bryan

CODE

029

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. C. Neill Baylor ✓

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 147

CITY, TOWN

Richmond Hill

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bryan County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Pembroke

STATE

Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Bryan County Survey

DATE

1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Preservation Section; Department of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta,

STATE

Georgia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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

Photographs of Strathy Hall in the early twentieth century show it to be a much larger house than it is at present, the product of a number of additions and alterations. On acquiring the property in the 1920's, Henry Ford removed these additions to reveal the structure which remains today. It is a classic Plantation Plain style: a two-story frame dwelling with a two-over-two room plan and no central hall. The porch area between the two shed rooms at the rear has become a hall with the addition of an early, detached kitchen which was moved and connected to the house by the present owners.

Raised only slightly on brick piers, the house is presently weatherboarded with the exception of the underporch area and the back "hall", which have wide flush siding. There is a one story, hip-roofed porch, supported by four thin, chamfered posts. As porches were often the most frequently changed items of a house's exterior, there is little doubt that the present porch is a replacement for a shed one. The wide, simple frames around the lower front windows are also more representative of the original treatment than the narrower frames on the upper and end windows. The windows on both upper and lower floors have been replaced: diamond pane over a single pane upstairs and, on the lower floors, two vertical double windows. There are two common-bonded brick end chimneys, with caps, in the main part of the house. The kitchen chimney was rebuilt when it was moved, but the original chimneypiece and the lintel over the fireplace opening were used in the replacement.

The four mantelpieces in the main part of the house are similar in design with engaged tuscan columns supporting the vertical endblocks and narrow shelf. A raised center panel is found on the frieze. This design changes slightly on the second floor, where the endblocks feature a bolection molding.

The interior walls are plastered and a concave moulding serves as a cornice throughout the house. The floors are pine. The staircase, located in the north-west room, is a one-quarter turn with a simple but heavy rectangular newel post. It, too, is a replacement because of the heaviness of the newel post and the slow incline of the lower portion of the stair is indicative of a later date.

Three outbuildings of varying ages and functions are located on the grounds including one (illustrated) which may have been a granary since it is raised on brick supports and has under-eave ventilation openings.

An avenue of oaks leads to the river from the north end of the house.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" 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) History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1840

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Strathy Hall is significant as the seat of a large, eighteenth and nineteenth century plantation and as a part of Henry Ford's twentieth century plantation, Richmond Hill. Architecturally, it is an example both of an early Plantation Plain style and of early twentieth century restoration and renovation techniques.

According to later deeds, the original 1,400 acres of land comprising Strathy Hall were granted in 1756 to Captain James MacKay, a British soldier who relinquished his commission the preceeding year and had been sworn in as a member of the Colonial Governor's Council. It was MacKay who gave the plantation its name, which derived from his brother's home, the family estate in Scotland. Another MacKay brother, Hugh, was the leader of the 1736 Scot's settlement at New Inverness, later Darien, Georgia.

When James MacKay died in 1785 in Alexandria, Virginia, his will bequeathed Strathy Hall to his grandson, John Kelsall. As a Loyalist, Kelsall had been mentioned in the 1778 Act of Attainder and the Act of Confiscation and Banishment in 1782, but there is no evidence of his property having been confiscated. On his death in 1804, according to his will, Strathy Hall was his property but as a life estate only and, as he was a resident of the Bahamma Islands, was rented to a Mr. Gillivary. In 1817, the administrator of Captain MacKay's estate, William Gaston, sold Strathy Hall to Colonel George W. McAllister, one of the most prominent citizens of Bryan County and of coastal Georgia. Nearby Fort McAllister, a Civil War fortification constructed as the southernmost of a chain of batteries protecting Savannah from the sea, was named for the family.

McAllister, who married at least three and probably four times, had a large family and was active in community affairs. In 1830, he owned, according to the census of that year, 134 slaves, a large number at that time, even on the coast where the growing of rice made a large labor force essential. McAllister died between 1846, when he took advantage of the Headright and Bounty Grants to obtain an additional 61 acres for his plantation, and 1850, when the census of agriculture lists his estate as consisting of 800 improved acres and 2,000 unimproved acres. Rice was the predominant crop of the plantation, which had yielded 620,000 pounds of that crop the preceeding year. Also produced were 50 bushels of peas and beans, 1,500 bushels of corn and 500 bushels of sweet potatoes, probably raised as food-stuffs for the family and the 194 slaves on the plantation at that time, rather than for sale.

For roughly three decades after his death, McAllister's plantation was administered by his executors. Since the records of the estate were destroyed, a case tried in Chatham County, Georgia, Superior Court in 1878 (Minute Book 36, p. 22ff) tells

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Personal Inspection, Victoria Reeves Gunn, August 26, 1976
 U.S. Population Census Records
 U.S. Agriculture Census Records
 Bryan County Deed Books
 Chatham County Superior Court Minute Book 36
 Chatham County Will Books, B & D
 Georgia Colonial Miscellaneous Bonds, Book O (continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.637

QUADRANGLE NAME Richmond Hill

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 4716210 3529630

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached Plat Map from Bryan County Deed Book 4-I, p. 1.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Victoria Reeves Gunn - Historical Consultant/Kenneth H. Thomas, Historian, HPS.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Preservation Section; Department of Natural Resources April 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

270 Washington Street, SW

404/656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Atlanta, Georgia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Elizabeth A. Lyon

TITLE

Elizabeth A. Lyon

DATE 10/13/78

Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: *Charles R. ...*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 1-29-79

DATE 1/29/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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most of what is known about Strathy Hall during that time. McAllister's widow, Charlotte, along with her son, Confederate Lt. Colonel James L. McAllister and Charles Hardee or Henry, was original executor of her husband's estate. After her death in the 1850's and her son's in 1864, Hardee, along with John N. Lewis, continued to administer the estate which consisted of Strathy Hall, some land in Habersham County, Georgia and "a small stock of cattle, mules, and horses and a quantity of rice and other produce on said Strathy Hall plantation". According to the court case, "said stock of cattle, mules and horses were lost to said Estate without fault of said executors on the occupation of said plantation by the Federal Army during the late War...".

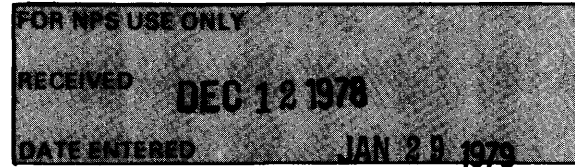
After the death of James McAllister and his sister's marriages, the plantation was apparently rented until 1874 when, according to the Minutes, it could not be rented for the next four years. After this unusually long period of administration, Strathy Hall was turned over to McAllister's heirs, who sold it immediately to R. Habersham Clay. Clay, and later his widow, held the property until 1925, when it became one of the first properties acquired by Henry Ford for his latter-day plantation.

Richmond Hill eventually encompassed nearly 70,000 acres and most of southern Bryan County, which at that time consisted primarily of large run-down plantations or the small tracts into which they had been divided. On acquiring Strathy Hall, Ford proceeded to accomplish a major "restoration", stripping the house of layers of additions to arrive at its simple, Plantation Plain core. According to local tradition, Ford researched the house to produce an accurate restoration, although he never lived in the house. After Ford's death, his entire plantation was purchased by the International Paper Company, from whom the present owners acquired Strathy Hall.

Compared to other, similar plantations, Strathy Hall has changed hands relatively few times in its history. Yet, it has been owned by a Scotch colonist, Southern farmers of Coastal Georgia, and a Northern industrialist, reflecting wide and varied history.

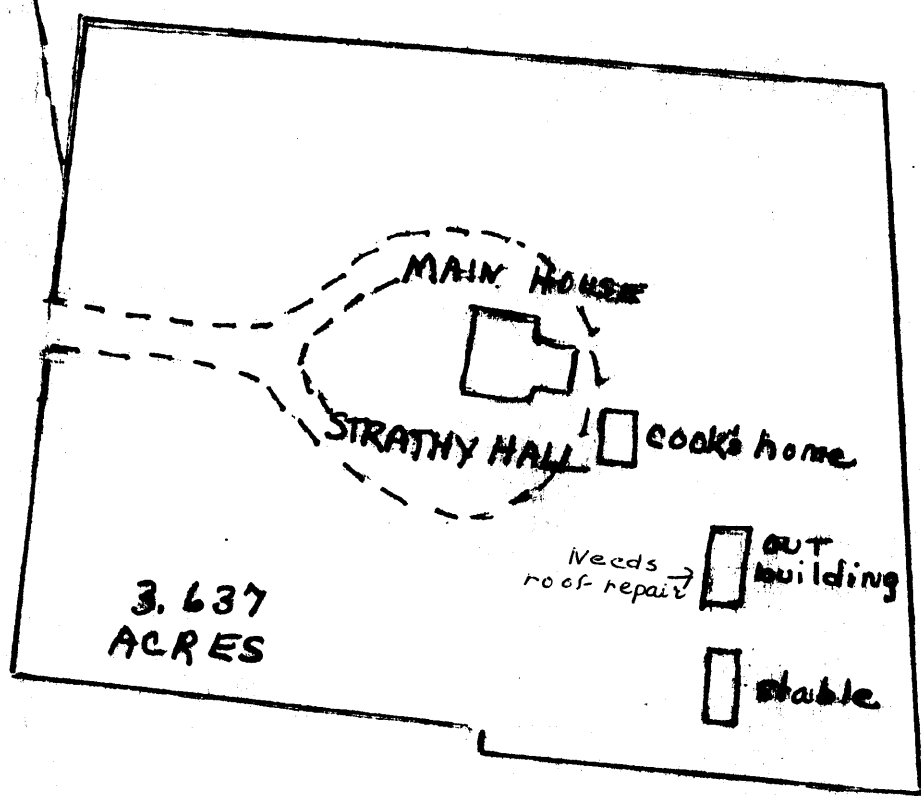
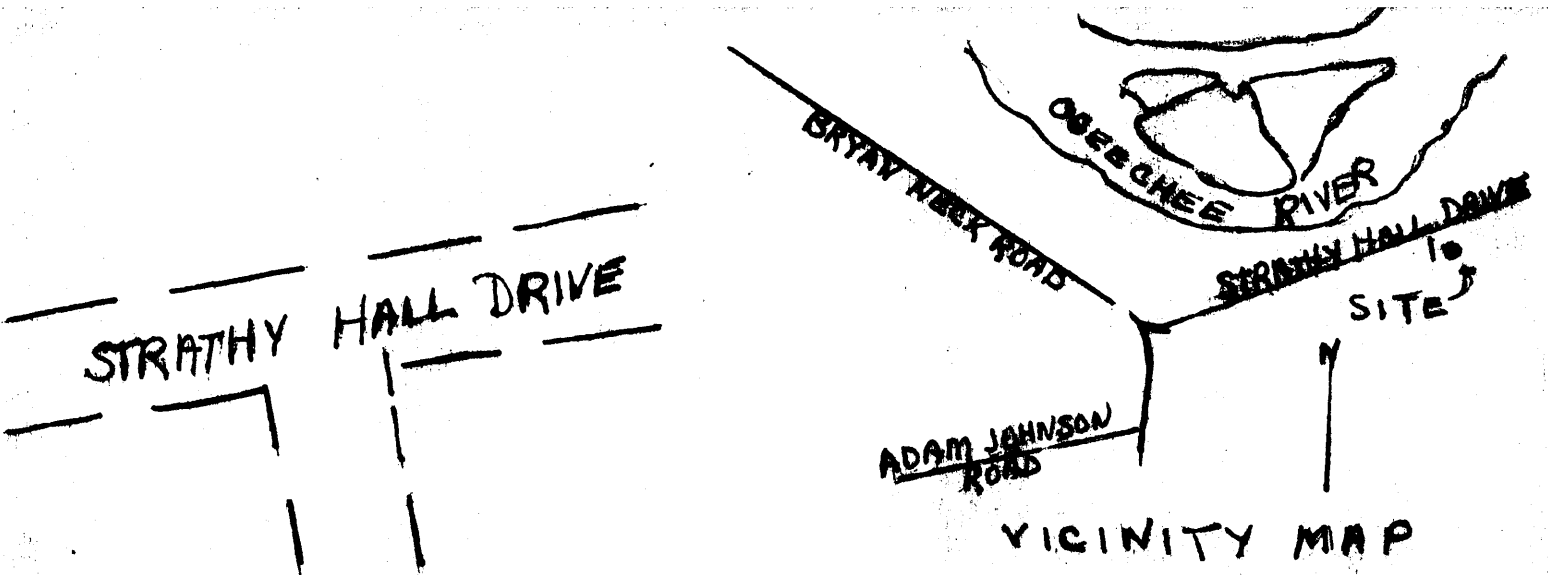
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CONTINUATION SHEET Major Bibliographical References ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Georgia Headright and Bounty Grants
Cooper, Ben Green, History of Bryan County, Georgia, manuscript (unpublished)
on microfilm, Georgia Department of Archives and History



Strathy Hall, Richmond Hill vicinity,
Bryan County, Georgia

Sketch Map
Not to Scale

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JAN 29 1979

Recorded BRYAN Co.
Deed Book 4-I p. 2