

PH002 5540

3rd Congressional District
Jack Brinkley

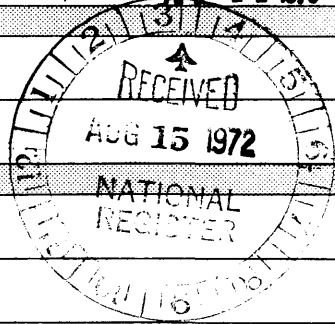
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia	
COUNTY: Muscogee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1973



1. NAME

COMMON:
Swift-Kyle House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Swift-Kyle House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
303 Twelfth Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbus

STATE Georgia	CODE 13	COUNTY: Muscogee	CODE 215
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
KSC Corporation

STREET AND NUMBER:
200 13th Street - Post Office Box 97

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbus

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Deed Books - Muscogee County Government Center

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbus

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey (1936)* / Historic Columbus Bldg. Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:
6-1-67

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Historic Columbus Foundation - 716 Broadway, Columbus, Ga.
Columbus Bldg. Inspector's Office - City of Columbus, Ga.
Columbus Museum of Arts & Crafts - Columbus, Ga. 31906
Community Development Division - City of Columbus, Ga. (13)

CITY OR TOWN:
Library of Congress, Washington

STATE:
D.C.

CODE:
08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Georgia

COUNTY: Muscogee

ENTRY NUMBER: APR 11 1973

DATE: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Swift-Kyle House is a variation of the Greek Revival style. The walls are twelve inch brick and were stuccoed, painted and scored to give the appearance of stone. This two story building's front facade presents a large projection central parlour and two front entrances recessed on either side. The two story portico with its wooden floor and eleven columns, originally square and made of pine boards, complete the original 1857 facade.

The main house has only six rooms and two halls. The living room, dining room and parlour were on the ground floor; three bedrooms were on the second floor.

The small frame three room building - originally on the lot when first purchased by Dr. Samuel A. Billings - was moved by him to the rear of the property and, until 1898, was used as a kitchen, servant's quarters, and a lower dining room. It still stands today as a part of the Swift-Kyle House complex.

When Colonel George Parker Swift bought the house in 1894 he added two brick outbuildings: one was used as a carriage house and horse stall, while the other was a two story "dormitory" which housed his four sons. These buildings still remain.

The interior of the house with its wide T-shaped hallway and broad mahogany staircase speaks of spaciousness. The folding doors, which were always open when the Swift's lived there, made the living room, parlour and dining room seem to be all one great room. Large windows with six over nine sash, reaching to the floor, and high ceilings also enhance the lower floor.

In 1898 a fire caused much damage and the roof of the house was destroyed. As a result, the formerly flat roof was replaced by a modified hipped roof which improved air circulation. At this time new columns of the composite order replaced the original ones. The column bases are original. Inside each column a twelve inch square pine beam was placed to support the roof. The original wrought iron grillwork that had adorned the roof was not replaced.

Elaborate woodwork was installed in the hall and along the ceilings of the house. The woodwork is birch, stained to resemble mahogany, and has never been waxed or polished. The window shutters and the elaborately carved front doors are original.

In 1938 the wooden floor on the front porch was replaced with tile.

A floor plan of the house is attached; please note room measurements are shown thereon.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1857

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | History |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Swift-Kyle House was built in 1857 by the popular Columbus physican, Dr. Samuel A. Billings, as a wedding gift for his bride, the widow of General Daniel MacDougald. Little is known of the activities taking place in the house during the Billings' five year residence except that the doctor's two daughters were married there.

In 1862 Simon and Frank Rothschild, two brothers from Eufaula, Alabama, bought the house and lived there with their families until the Union forces that occupied the city towards the end of the War Between the States confiscated the house for their headquarters. The Rothschild family was known for its hospitality; wine served Jefferson Davis on his visit to Columbus came from the cellars of their home.

In 1864 Colonel George Parker Swift from Thomaston, Georgia, acquired the house for \$50,000 Confederate dollars and a quantity of osnaburg (a heavy duck material) manufactured in his cotton mill. Shortly after the War ended Colonel and Mrs. Swift moved to Columbus with their seven children. Members of his family lived in the house for eighty-five years, and his descendants still own the property.

Colonel Swift had married Cornelia Adelaide Jewett in 1843 before they moved to Georgia from Massachusetts. Their home had been in the section around Lowell, which was noted for its textile industry. Upon their arrival in Georgia they built the Triune Mills in Upson County, so called because there were three mills. These were among the first cotton mills in Georgia, and were burned by Sherman's Amry on his "March to the Sea."

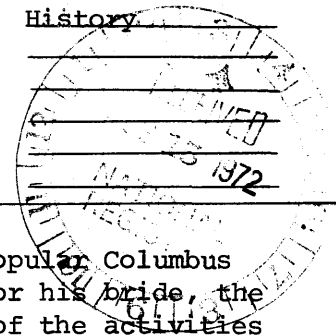
The move to Columbus proved to be beneficial for Colonel and Mrs. Swift, for Colonel Swift developed the Muscogee Manufacturing Company which became one of the largest manufacturers of cotton towels in the world. It is now a wholly-owned subsidiary of Fieldcrest Mills.

Brides of the family for three succeeding generations chose the wedding day, April 19th, of Colonel and Mrs. Swift for their own weddings in this lovely family home: 1883 - Adelaide Swift married James P. Kyle; 1913 - Elizabeth Kyle married Richard P. Spencer, III; 1940 - Elizabeth Kyle Spencer married Gardiner Garrard.

When Colonel Swift died in 1896 he left the house to his children.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Biggers, Mrs. James J.W., Sr. Prepared first draft.
 Worsley, Etta Blanchard, Columbus on the Chattahoochee, Columbus, Georgia, 1951. pp. 199-201.
 Edmunds, Mrs. Richard, "Swift-Kyle House" (A paper)
 Interview with Edith Kyle Crawford, Granddaughter of Colonel George Parker Swift, by Sue Taliaferro Betts, Monday, February 28, 1972. Further references were two papers written by Mrs. Crawford.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		32° 28' 10" N	84° 59' 18" W	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

NO UTM
CX

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mr. William R. Mitchell, Jr., Director, Georgia Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION: **Georgia Historical Commission** DATE: **July 10, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
116 Mitchell Street, SW

CITY OR TOWN: **Atlanta** STATE: **Georgia** CODE: **13**

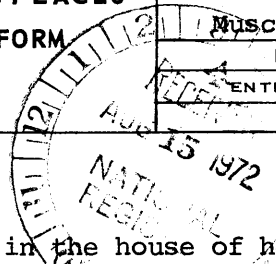
12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Mary Gregory Jewett</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>August 8, 1972</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert M. Utley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>4/11/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>Wm. D. Smith</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>4-3-73</u></p>
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Georgia	
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance, p.2

Adelaide Swift Kyle acquired the interest in the house of her brothers and sisters, and lived in it the rest of her life. Her children - Elizabeth Kyle Spencer, Edith Kyle Crawford, and George Swift Kyle - were born and reared in this home. Upon Mrs. Kyle's death in 1938 the house passed to her three children.

In 1941 Edith Kyle married Henry Benning Crawford. Because Mrs. Crawford wanted to live in the house she had lived in most of her life she entered into an agreement with Mr. Crawford: they would live six months of each year in her family home, and the remaining six months of each year in his home. This unusual arrangement worked smoothly for fifteen years.

The Swift-Kyle House remained a private home until 1956 when the widowed Mrs. Crawford envisioned a twentieth century commercial adaptive use for this historic home, and it saw service for awhile as Massey Business College. Today the house continues to enhance Columbus as a facility for three other businesses: The Columbus Travel Bureau; The Flying Needle Tailor Shop; and the offices of the Columbus Rotary Club. The two story century old outbuilding in the rear serves as the artist studio of the noted New York painter Henry Nordhausen when he is in residence in Columbus.

This house, which is still playing a vital role in the community, is located at the intersection of Twelfth Street and Third Avenue. Twelfth Street is the main thoroughfare into downtown Columbus.

In this instance a busy street (Third Avenue) has become an aid to a historic structure for it permits the eye to enjoy the Swift-Kyle House without being overpowered by the visual impact of a modern multi-story business complex, The Ralston Motor Hotel-Georgia Power Company complex. Directly across from the Swift-Kyle House are the well kept buildings and gardens of the Holy Family Catholic Church. Diagonally across the intersection of Twelfth and Third are the lovely buildings and grounds of the First Baptist Church, Columbus' only ante-bellum church structure.

"Progress," however, does endanger the Swift-Kyle House. In the same block, on the same side of the street, but at the other corner is the terminal of a locally owned bus line that serves Fort Benning, Georgia. Any expansion plan of the busline would necessitate utilizing Twelfth Street frontage because of existing property values. Thus, the adjacent Swift-Kyle House is urgently in need of the protection and prestige afforded by the National Register. According to a recently passed Columbus zoning ordinance, any house accepted by the National Register will be given a "Landmark" status locally. This means that all alterations, improvements, partial demolitions, etc., will be subject to review by the local Board of Historic and Architectural Review.

According to Edward W. Neal, a prominent local architect who is vitally interested in historic preservation, this is the only house in the Chattahoochee Valley area that is known to him that has a portico going around a projected room

(continued)

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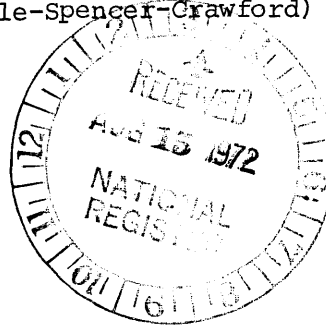
8. Significance p. 3

(which served as the drawing room on the first floor and one of the bedrooms on the second floor.) He feels that this in itself is an outstanding architectural element. In addition, he has reminded us that this is the only house in the downtown Columbus area with the original outbuildings remaining.

Titles:

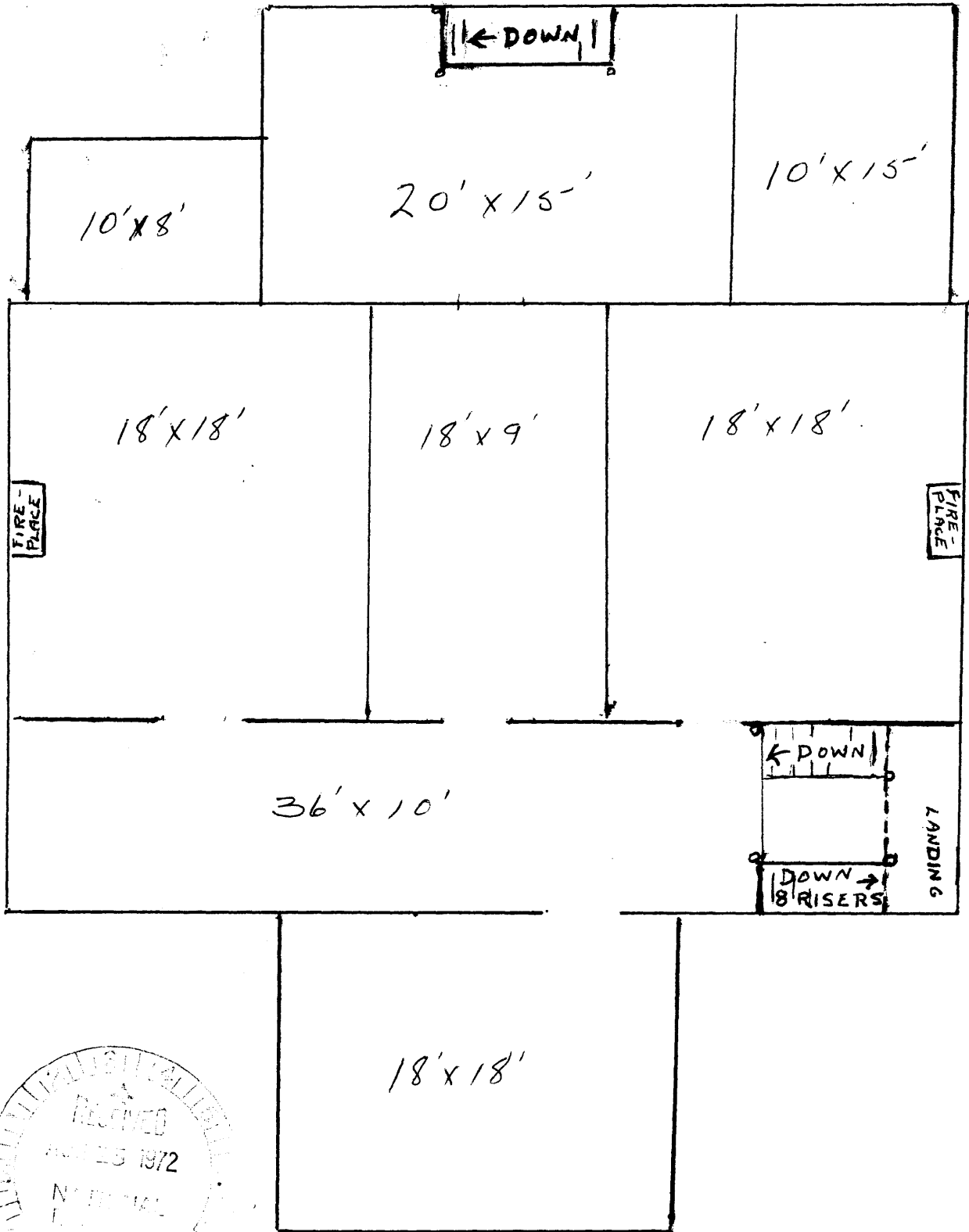
- State of Georgia to Thomas McCarly, 1832 - 1/2 acre
- F35* S. A. Billings from Hines Holt, Adm. estate fo John C. Keitner, Deceased 1853 - \$2300
- L57* Simon and Frank Rothschild from S.A. Billings, 1862 - \$8200
- Ml05* George P. Swift from S. and F. Rothschild, 1864 - \$50,000 Confederate dollars
- RR216*Members of the George Swift family
- WW337*
- l1329*Family to Adelaide Swift Kyle
- LL279*KSC Corporation owns residence (Kyle-Spencer-Crawford)

*Deed Books



CEILING HEIGHT - SECOND FLOOR 11'

Swift - Kyle House - Columbus, Georgia



Swift-Kyle House - Columbus, Georgia

