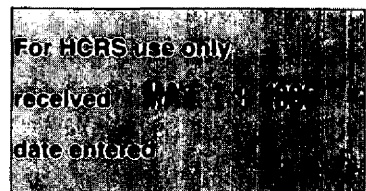


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Liberty Hall

and/or common Simpson Plantation

**2. Location** SE of Americus on

street & number South Lee Street Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Americus vic.  vicinity of congressional district 3rd - Jack Brinkley

state Georgia code 013 county Sumter code 261

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name (a) Mary and Ruby Simpson  
(b) Mrs. Frances Simpson Walters

street & number (a) South Lee Street Road  
(b) 100 Atlantic Avenue, Apt. 612

city, town (a) Americus state (a) Georgia 31709  
(b) Long Beach a vicinity of (b) California 90802

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Sumter County Courthouse  
Lamar Street

city, town Americus state Georgia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title none has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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

Situated in a grove of trees surrounded by both cultivated and wooded lands, Liberty Hall is a frame, two-story building. Fifty feet by thirty-six feet, it is three bays wide and two bays deep. The hipped roof is covered with composition shingles and two internal brick chimneys are employed in the house. All four columns on the front portico are made of pine and all of the windows, nine-over-nine on the first floor and six-over-six on the second floor, are shuttered. A small, one-story porch with wooden trim is found on the rear of the house. The only addition to the original building is the attached one-story kitchen on the east wall, built ca. 1888.

Double rooms with fourteen foot ceilings flank the central hall on both floors. A staircase in the downstairs hall leads to the second floor. Wide, hand-planed pine boards are used throughout the house for both floors and walls. In most instances the walls have been painted or papered, but those in the two rear rooms on the second floor retain their natural coloring. The mantles are simple in design and employ brick hearths.

There are fourteen outbuildings on the property. These, which are in fair to deteriorating condition, are all that remain of the once numerous auxiliary structures on the plantation. The land to the east of the house is cultivated while that to the west is covered with timber. A pecan orchard and vegetable patch are immediately north of the house.

Boundaries of the nominated property circumscribe three land lots which represent the intact historic acreage associated with the plantation. A major intrusion on the nominated property is the right-of-way for Georgia Route 377, a modern two-lane country road.

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1861-65                      **Builder/Architect** unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Liberty Hall is significant to the architectural and agricultural history of Sumter County. The plantation house is a good example of Greek Revival architecture in the Americus vicinity. Agricultural outbuildings reflect the types of production that occurred on the plantation. Representative of the typical self-sufficient plantation in Sumter County, the 607 acre plantation has remained intact and under cultivation since 1874.

Architecturally, Liberty Hall is a good example of the Southern expression of the Greek Revival style of architecture as found in Sumter County. The massive, four-columned portico, symmetrical facade, and four over four central stair hall floor plan are indicative of Greek Revival architecture. The heavy, solid construction of the house and interior ornamentation are also reflective of traditional building styles and techniques. Materials used in the construction of the house came from the styles and techniques common to Sumter County. The architectural styles corresponded to the purpose and function of the building.

Agriculturally, Liberty Hall is significant as being a representative plantation of Sumter County and as being maintained by the same family for over 100 years as a working farm. Thomas D. Speer, the original owner of Liberty Hall, was a well known farmer in Sumter County and a member of the locally prominent Speer family. Six hundred acres of the plantation (three land lots), including Liberty Hall, was sold in 1874 to Thomas Simpson, who later deeded the plantation to his son, George R. Simpson. The plantation has remained in possession of the Simpson family to the present day.

Prior to the Civil War, Thomas D. Speer established a self-sufficient plantation of well over 3000 acres of which 607 acres remains intact. In 1860, just prior to the construction of Liberty Hall, 39 slaves assisted Speer in the production of 23,200 pounds of ginned cotton and 2000 bushels of Indian corn, as well as peas and beans, sweet potatoes, and molasses. He also had a large holding of livestock. In 1870, Speer's production decreased significantly as did many Georgians due to losses after the Civil War. Only 4000 pounds of ginned cotton and 1000 bushels of Indian corn were produced, although he did begin to grow oats and increased his production of molasses. Attempts at diversification are noticed in the 1870 agricultural census. In 1874, Speer sold three land lots, 607 acres, of his plantation (Including Liberty Hall), to Thomas Simpson. These three land lots remain intact today and are partially under cultivation. Simpson continued to produce cotton, Indian corn, sweet potatoes, and molasses, but further diversified the types of production that occurred on the plantation. He introduced wheat to the plantation, and after the turn of the century, he developed orchards and rice fields. The production of rice seems highly unlikely in inland Sumter County, but agricultural censuses indicate the growing of rice in the county as early as 1860. Simpson used irrigation ditches to produce the rice. To refine the raw materials grown on the plantation, a cane mill, cotton press, and cotton gin were built and operated. One third of the plantation is currently rent farmed with the major crops being peanuts, cotton, corn, and soybeans.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Williford, William Bailey. Americus Through the Years. Atlanta: Cherokee Publishing Co., 1975.  
 Sheppard, Peggy. "The Ladies of Liberty Hall." Georgia Life, Autumn 1974.  
 Simpson, Ruby and Simpson, Mary. Americus, Georgia. Interview by David Brown, 1 May 1979.

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 607 acres  
 Quadrangle name Smithville East, Ga.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>6</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>8</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	D	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>6</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
E	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	F	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
G	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	H	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property includes land lots 129, 144, and 163 in the 16th district of Sumter County as indicated on enclosed maps.

### 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 David J. Brown, Historic Preservation Planner Historic Preservation Section  
contact: Kacy Ginn

organization Middle Flint Planning Commission date April 29, 1980

street & number P. O. Box 6 telephone (912) 937-2561

city or town Ellaville state Georgia

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon  
 Elizabeth A. Lyon date 5/6/80

title Acting Historic Preservation Officer

For HCRS use only  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Charles D. Shuel date 11-25-80  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: [Signature] date 11/28/80  
 Chief of Registration

Anthony  
Cem

LIBERTY HALL  
Americus vicinity, Sumter County, Georgia

Quadrangle: Smithville East, Ga.

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000

North: ↑

UTM References:

- A z.16 E.763100 N.3538720
- B z.16 E.765810 N.3538765
- C z.16 E.765840 N.3537860
- D z.16 E.763125 N.3537840

The rights of way for highway 377 have b  
excluded from this nomination.

Branch

CREEK

Philema

A

B<sub>339</sub>

D

C

BM  
309