

PH0003603

STATE: Georgia	
COUNTY: Hancock	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-6-10-000	DATE 6/22/70

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
Shivers-Simpson House, or "Rock Mill"

AND/OR HISTORIC:
"Rock Mill"

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Mayfield Road, on the Ogeechee River

CITY OR TOWN:
near town of Jewell (Intersection of Mayfield Road and Georgia 16)

STATE Georgia	CODE 10	COUNTY: Hancock	CODE 141
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> _____ _____ _____
			Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> may be opened to public as a museum

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Olin Shivers, M.D.

STREET AND NUMBER:
47 Peachtree Park Dr. N.E. (office)

CITY OR TOWN:
Atlanta

STATE: Georgia	CODE 10
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Hancock County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Sparta

STATE: Georgia	CODE 10
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 120 acres

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Oconee Architecture (Unpublished manuscript by John Linley, AIA)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968 Federal State County Local

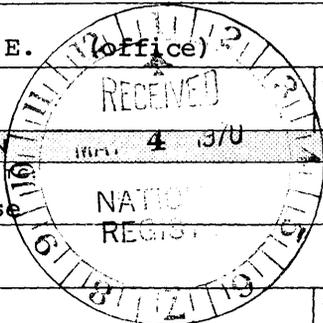
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
University of Georgia

STREET AND NUMBER:
% Institute of Community and Area Development

CITY OR TOWN:
Athens

STATE: Georgia	CODE 10
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STATE: Georgia
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

About 1820 William Shivers had a three story frame house built near the Ogeechee River on land inherited from his father. Since that time only one important - but easily rectified - alteration to this rectangular structure has been made. About 1890 the original raised portico at the second floor main entrance was removed in favor of a second story porch running the entire length of the façade. In early 1968 the house was in a natural state of extraordinarily good preservation when Dr. Olin Shivers, a descendant of William, bought it to restore as a second home. This restoration is being carefully guided by Mr. Edward Vason Jones, a recognized authority on the period of which the house is a particularly fine example: late-Federal, with strong-overtones of the Greek Revival.

I. EXTERIOR: A three story rectangle (about 52'X43') with a simple box cornice and gable roof with broad brick chimneys enclosed in the gable end walls. (Above the roof line these chimneys are plastered and scored to imitate stone.) The first floor, a high basement, is of handmade salmon red brick laid on a single course of granite blocks as foundation. A narrow band of this granite is repeated at the top of the brick at the level of the second story, which is the formal first floor. From this "stringcourse" of stone, clapboards rise for two stories. There are no wings or extensions. The missing original raised portico, which resembled a Greek Doric temple, has been drawn and will be re-constructed in the center of the façade. A broad set of steps will lead directly to the floor of this pedimented porch (supported on granite piers) and to the main entrance doorway (which opens into a broad hall off which the formal rooms open). The original glass panelled fanlight and wide double doors surrounded by side lights, of this entrance, survive. At each floor level - front, back, and sides - four symmetrically placed sash windows are framed by simple wood architraves, which are still hung, in several cases, with original louvered (non-movable) shutters painted a now-faded gray-blue. Exceptions to this rule are first, on the front, double windows over the main entrance; secondly, on the back, centered over the ground level entrance windows at each floor; and lastly, on both sides in the gable ends two windows instead of four. Ground floor windows are six-over-six; second floor nine-over-nine; and third floor four-over-six. (The rear east room windows on the ground floor, are barred, and shuttered with solid panels.) The house may be entered on the ground level - front and back - through wide, panelled doors opening into a broad downstairs hall.

II. INTERIOR: Wide halls bisect each floor, front-to-back, with two 18'X20' rooms on either side. The ground level hall is paved with large, well-fitted solid granite blocks. Otherwise, wood floors are found throughout with the exception of the dirt floors of the barred and shuttered "provision room" on the ground level. In the hall of this level, straight stairs rise to the high ceilings and formality of the second floor. The hall is ornamented with a surviving original plaster cornice ornately worked with eggs-and-darts entwined by a grape vine. Centered in this ceiling, and in the west front room, is a finely wrought plaster rosette with acanthus leaves and a fret of "Greek Keys." Each room on all three floors has large and tall fireplace openings; the chimney pieces, or "mantels", vary in quality and appearance but all are Federal in style and original to the house. The original doors, panelled in Greek Revival style, are all intact except for missing hardware. A graceful stair with turned balusters rises against the rear wall of the 2nd floor, with the landing crossing the middle window, to the 3rd floor. This floor is

(cont.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

7. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

identical to the 2nd except for the lack of cornices, slightly lower ceilings, and the addition of a 5th room at the front, closing in that part of the wide hall.

A 3rd stair rises from this floor to the 4th floor which is one large room covering the entire house, not high-ceilinged or elegant enough in detail to be a ballroom, but entirely ceiled and plastered, with two windows on either side of the chimneys at either end. The chimneys, two at either end of the house, each serving 3 fireplaces (a total of 12 fireplaces) join in this room and appear as only two chimneys on the roof.



8. 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) c.1820

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi-		Other (Specify)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	losophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>architecture</u>	
Agriculture	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>History</u>	
Art	Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>(may be opened on</u>	
Commerce	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-		<u>part-time basis as</u>	
Communications	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	itarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>a house museum)</u>	
Conservation	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

I. The Restoration

Built for William Shivers about 1820, Rock Mill is a significant surveying document of cultural life on the Ogeechee River during the nineteenth century. It is not only extraordinarily well-preserved but is being carefully restored by one of William's descendants, Dr. Olin Shivers, an Atlanta pediatrician. Dr. Shivers, intending restored Rock Mill to be an educational adventure for all involved, plans to open it to the public as a furnished house museum while retaining title to and use of the property, much as people do in England. He has chosen a particularly well-qualified architect to advise him, Edward Vason Jones of Albany, Georgia, a recognized authority on American Neo-Classical architecture and decorative arts. The restoration is in good hands and someday can indeed be a three-dimensional reminder and gracious exhibit of a way of life which has passed.

II. The History

The story of Rock Mill begins not with William Shivers, who had it built, but with William's father Jonas, a Revolutionary soldier who migrated to the Oconee Valley from Virginia. Born in 1750, married in 1772, by 1809 Jonas Shivers was living on the east bank of the Ogeechee in Warren County. (Rock Mill is on the west bank.) His house was the center of a tiny community now called Mayfield but then known as "Shivers" (see the Eleazer Early Map of 1818). Shivers was a small industrial "complex" consisting of a grist mill; a woolen mill for carding and baling; a store; a tavern; a horse-exchange, stage-stop and post office on the Augusta-to-Milledgeville stageline. William Shivers followed in his father's footsteps by becoming a mill owner too, but on a larger scale. In 1811 he married Francis Pitts of Warrenton and soon thereafter he settled across the Ogeechee from Shivers in Hancock County. He built a grist mill of rock and then a frame house named for the mill. This was shortly before 1820. His house was large, three stories with an attic - seventeen rooms in all. The ground floor was a kitchen and storage area. The clapboarded house was a monumental plantation home for an early 19th century magnate. The complex of mills nearby surpassed that on the east bank of the river. Powered by its waters, his factories manufactured "cotton goods and wool yarns," and carded wool for the local people. A quarter of a mile to the west, on three acres of his land was Rock Mills Methodist Episcopal Church, the lord-of-the-manor's church. When he died in 1852, he was a rich man; the appraisement of his estate clearly shows this. There was much property, many slaves, and much money owed him. On December, 1853, Rock Mill was sold to William W. Simpson for \$24,250. Simpson operated the grist mill. In the ensuing years, the old house passed through many hands, with few alterations, before it was purchased in 1967 by Olin Shivers, a descendant of Jonas and William. And a new history begins.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Appraisalment, Estate of William Shivers Deceased, December 12, 1852." Certified copy of original in Hancock County Courthouse, twenty-two pages. Copy filed with Georgia Historical Commission.
 Baker, Mrs. Pearl, "Jewell on the Ogeechee," copy of unpublished manuscript, 1969. Georgia Historical Commission files.
 Linley, John W., "Oconee Architecture," 1968. Copy of unpublished manuscript (U. of Ga. Press may publish); copy with Georgia Historical Commission.
 Shivers, Olin. Typescript of data by owner, Dec. 4, 1969. Georgia Historical Commission files.
 Williams, Vinnie, "Jewell Landmark Gets a Facelifting," The Augusta Chronicle, Jan. 12, 1970. Copy, Ga. Historical Commission files.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
				33 18 30	82 47 30	

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: Georgia Historical Commission DATE: April 17, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
 116 Mitchell Street, S.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 10

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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:

National State Local

Name: Mary G. Jewett

Title: State Liaison Officer, Ga

Date: Apr. 30, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest Allen Connolly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: JUN 22 1970

ATTEST:

William J. Dunlap
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: MAY 27 1970

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 SEE INSTRUCTIONS