

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED **JAN 20 1980**

**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

The Mills House and Smokehouse at Brookfield

AND/OR COMMON

Same as above

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

S of Griffin at
1590 Carver Road

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Griffin *mi.*

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th- Newt Gingrich

STATE

Georgia

CODE

013

COUNTY

Spalding

CODE

255

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

C. Harold Hutchison, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 479

CITY, TOWN

Griffin

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia 30223

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Superior Court

STREET & NUMBER

Spalding County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Griffin

STATE

Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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

The Mills House at Brookfield

The Mills House at Brookfield is a simple, vernacular, Italianate-style built in the mid-1870s.

The main block of the Mills House is rectangular in plan (40' x 32') and virtually cubical in mass with a moderately pitched hip roof. The four rooms on each of the two floors are served by a central stair hall extending through the house on axis from the front to the back door. Each of the eight corner rooms is lighted and ventilated by four two-over-two sash windows with louvered shutters. All rooms open onto the central hall.

The main body of the house is constructed with a combination of heavy mortised and tenoned timbers and light dimensioned lumber fastened with cut nails. This structure is sheathed with weatherboards, painted white. The house was originally supported by brick piers; it now rests on a continuous brick foundation wall. Original wood shingles on the roof have been covered with large, diamond-shaped asphalt shingles.

An original front porch extends across the entire length of the north facade. This porch is one-story high and consists of a low, hipped roof supported by four pairs of square-sectioned, bracketed columns. These columns are spaced so as to establish a simple one-to-three pattern of semi-circular and elongated semi-circular arches under the porch cornice. A low railing on turned balusters encloses the porch.

The front entrance is trabeated, with rectangular side and transom lights. The front door is paneled; the upper two panels are round-headed.

The rear porch was originally similar in size and appearance to the front porch. At the turn of the century, however, the west end of the porch was enclosed for a bathroom and the east end was extended and enclosed for an attached kitchen. The doorway between the new kitchen and original dining room replaced an earlier window. The rear porch is now one story high with a low, hipped roof supported by chamfered square-sectioned posts. A railing on simple square-sectioned balusters, and a series of louvered shutters, partially enclose the rear porch. Fully enclosed portions of the rear porch and its extension are sheathed with weatherboards.

Detailing on the exterior of the house is limited to the window lintels and roof eaves. First-floor windows are capped with shallow, flat, wooden pediments; second-floor windows are capped with narrow, entablature-like moldings. The roof eaves have boxed soffits and plain fascia highlighted by

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single-spaced scrolled brackets and, at each corner, a carved medallion with pendant.

The interior of the Mills House retains its basic four-over-four-with-central-hall arrangement. Each room is approximately sixteen feet square and twelve feet high, and the hall is eight feet wide by thirty-two feet long. Although this overall arrangement has survived, uses have in some cases changed, and there have been extensive changes in interior materials, details, and decor. Only one fireplace mantel is original to the house; the others have been closed and in some cases reopened and provided with either period or contemporary mantels. Hallway doors on the first floor have been sawed in half lengthwise to create narrow "French" double doors. Artificial beams have been attached to the ceiling in the first-floor southwest room, and ceilings have been lowered throughout upstairs. New millwork has been installed, especially in the hall. One bedroom has been partitioned to form a studio, closet, and bathroom, and the north end of the upstairs hall has been narrowed by closets. Some original detailing survives, including the mahogany newel post, handrail, and balusters of the stairway, the beaded tongue-and-groove wainscot in the hallway, and the Vermont-slate dining-room mantel.

Outbuildings

Only one historically significant outbuilding is associated with the Mills House at Brookfield -- a smokehouse. This smokehouse is a rectangular building, approximately fourteen feet in width, twenty feet in length, and one story high with a low, hipped roof. Its walls consist of primitive poured-in-place concrete. The concrete is made from rubble stone, lime, and clay mud cast in linear wood forms. The roof is supported by heavy sawn timber rafters and thin dimensioned lumber pinlins. The original cedar-shingle roof has been covered with large, diamond-shaped asphalt shingles.

Several other outbuildings are associated with the Mills House at Brookfield. These include a barn-and-carriage-house complex to the east, and two tenant houses to the west. All of these outbuildings have been extensively remodeled inside and outside, and most have been moved at least once in recent years.

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East of the barn-and-carriage-house complex are several large barns and smaller outbuildings. Like the outbuildings in the vicinity of the house, these have been altered and/or moved. Furthermore, they are now related to another piece of agricultural property.

South and west of the Mills House, at some distance, are several modern suburban-style houses.

Grounds

The grounds around the Mills House at Brookfield have been recently landscaped. The front yard features a circular driveway around a pool with a hedge-and-chain fence. Dense shrubbery is planted near the house. To the north, at the property line, is a thick row of pine trees. The rear yard is largely a graveled driveway and parking area. The side yard to the east has been laid out as a combination ornamental/kitchen garden. The side yard to the west is cut by the driveway.

The main house sits on a rise of ground and is visible for considerable distances from several directions. The house was once associated with hundreds of acres of land and was originally approached from the north.

Boundaries

Boundaries of the nominated property are shown by the thin black line on the attached property/tax map. These boundaries include only the main house and the smokehouse. These two buildings are the only historically significant structures on the property that meet the criteria for listing in the National Register. All other outbuildings have been so altered or moved that they no longer contribute to a meaningful sense of historical place. The landscaping, because of its recent origins and current property restrictions, is likewise a non-contributing feature of the historically significant property.

As a final clarification regarding the nominated property, it should be pointed out that, of the main house itself, only the exterior and to some extent the interior arrangement are historically significant aspects. The interior has been so extensively remodeled that it is essentially a non-contributing feature of the historic 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1875

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mills House and Smokehouse at Brookfield is significant in architecture, commerce and the local history of Griffin.

Thomas Roderick Mills, born in 1806 in Florida, moved to Savannah after 1818. He was married to Elizabeth Green Tufts in Savannah in 1840, when he was nineteen years old. Thomas Mills and his two brothers, Charles and James, were large cotton shippers between Savannah and England and were opposed to the Civil War for economic reasons. They owned substantial interest in the Marine Bank of Savannah, and in an effort to protect their investment during the Civil War, they exchanged U.S. bank notes for British pounds sterling. After the War, the Marine Bank was one of the few in the Confederacy able to pay its depositors in gold.

In 1875, Thomas liquidated his assets in the mercantile partnership in order to retire. Thomas and Elizabeth wanted to build a summer home away from Savannah because of the hot and humid summers and a series of Yellow Fever epidemics in that city. The decision to build in Griffin was probably due to Thomas Mills' eldest son, Charles Garner Mills. Having married Mary E. Reid of Griffin in Savannah in 1870, he moved to her family's plantation near Griffin that she had inherited from her father, one of the largest land and slave owners in Pike and Spalding counties.

In the mid-1870s, Thomas Mills, Sr., purchased 800 acres of land southwest of Griffin on a high ridge line and built this summer house, which he called "Brookfield." It is said that the house was not of great beauty, but was well constructed. The size of the house, the number and size of the out-buildings, and the amount of acreage associated with the house are indicative of the financial stability of the family. By the 1880s in Georgia, Reconstruction had reduced many comfortable families' situations. The facilities at "Brookfield" were more than ample for an elderly couple in their summer home, and an exception to the ground rule. One example of this is the size of the smokehouse.

Thomas Mills, Sr., also built a horse track and stables at Brookfield to raise his thoroughbred horses. Nothing remains of this facility. He is

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Goddard, Thomas H., and John H. Goddard, Jr. The Mills, Cope and Related Families of Georgia. Philadelphia: Dunlap Printing Co., 1962.
 Personal inspection by Helen Lynn, May, 1979.
 Draft nomination, 1978, by Randolph C. Marks with bibliography.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Griffin South, Georgia

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES
 A 16 752100 3677560

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

[See attachment.]

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 Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian
Helen Lynn, Student Intern

ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Sec., Dept. of Natural Resources

DATE July 20, 1979

STREET & NUMBER 270 Washington Street, S.W.

TELEPHONE (404) 656-2840

CITY OR TOWN Atlanta

STATE Georgia 30334

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Elizabeth A. Lyon

TITLE Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 11/1/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Sally G. Ridd

DATE 1/20/80

ATTEST: W. L. ...
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 1/15/80

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also credited with introducing the first Guernsey cows into Spalding County.

The house was used as a residence until 1969, when it was sold to Kenneth Williams, who owned and operated a catering service out of the house. During this time, the house was used for social gatherings and weddings. The present owner continues to operate a catering service there, using one of the outbuildings as the kitchen while he has restored and lives in the main house.

This house is significant in the history of commerce in Georgia due to its being constructed using funds that the Mills family kept during the Civil War by their British investments when other families lost complete fortunes. The Mills' investments overseas rather than in Confederate bonds indicates their superior pragmatic financial ability when so many of their peers were espousing "the cause" which was to fall in less than five years. Few Georgia families survived the era financially intact, let alone were able to erect a home that reflects their continued prosperity during the Reconstruction era.

Architectural Significance

The Mills House at Brookfield is architecturally significant as a relatively rare example of the Italianate style of domestic architecture in Georgia. Italianate-style houses are unusual in Georgia because the period of their greatest national popularity coincided with the Civil War and its aftermath in the South. That Mills was able to afford such a retirement home is a credit to his personal financial management. The Italianate styling of his house reveals awareness of current architectural design as well.

The Mills House is also a good example of the rather simple, vernacular, Italianate-style country house. Its salient architectural features include the severe cubical massing under a low, hipped roof, the tall, narrow proportions of windows and doors, the pediment- and entablature-like lintels over the windows, the bracketed front porch, and especially the broad overhanging eaves highlighted by single-spaced scroll brackets and corner medallions with pendants.

The interior of the Mills House was less progressively Italianate and more traditionally Southern. Instead of the usual asymmetric Italianate

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arrangement of interior space, the Mills House featured a traditional Southern four-over-four-with-central-hall arrangement of rooms, with an emphasis on symmetry, that was more in keeping with antebellum Greek Revival practice. Whatever significance this interior may have had has been seriously compromised by recent remodeling, however, and only its basic outline remains.

The Mills House is also significant as a historic landmark in the Griffin area. Situated on a rise of ground in relatively open countryside, it can be seen for considerable distances from several directions.

The smokehouse associated with the Mills House at Brookfield is highly significant architecturally. Dating from the time of the house or shortly thereafter, it features primitive poured-in-place concrete-wall construction that is extremely unusual for its time in this state. Although gravel-wall and other simple concrete-wall construction techniques were well known by the middle of the nineteenth century, they were apparently not much used in Georgia. An exception is the widespread use of "tabby" construction along the coast; since the Mills were originally from Savannah, there may be more than a casual relationship here, although there is no known documentation to support such a contention. Whatever the case, the presence of this concrete smokehouse at Brookfield testifies to the Mills' innovative approach to construction as well as design.

Other outbuildings at Brookfield have been so extensively altered and/or moved that they do not contribute to an authentic sense of historic place. Similarly, the landscaping, dating as it does from recent years and designed as it is to conform with current restricted property boundaries, is a non-contributing aspect of this historic property.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is described by a thin black line on the attached map entitled "Boundaries of Nominated Property." Because the main house and the smokehouse are the only historically significant structures [the other outbuildings and the landscaping are not historically significant], this boundary is drawn at a distance of twenty-five feet from the exterior walls of the structures. To preserve their relationships, the boundary also encompasses the space between the buildings.