

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

AUG 29 1978

DATE ENTERED

JUN 22 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

Hil 'ardin (Sharp-Hardin-Wright House)

AND/OR COMMON

Hil 'ardin/Sharp-Hardin-Wright House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

212 South Lee Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Forsyth

VICINITY OF

3rd - Brinkley

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Georgia

13

Monroe

207

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

X STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

X NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Graham Wright

STREET & NUMBER

212 South Lee Street

CITY, TOWN

Forsyth

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Monroe County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Forsyth

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 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

A columned neo-classical dwelling set far back from the street, the house is on a gentle rise among tall trees. It faces north toward the end of South Lee Street which branches at the entrance to the house, the west fork becoming the Russellville road and the east, the Montpelier road.

Within the present large frame house exists an earlier house of c. 1836, thought to have been built by Cyrus Sharp. It was also framed, one-room deep and two stories high with central hall, exterior end chimneys and one-story rear wing. Examination of the foundations reveals the massive sills of the original house in an L-shaped plan, surrounded by the piers of later additions. An old photograph (prior to 1916 and probably 19th century) shows that the Sharp House had a small front porch of Greek Revival inspiration with paired columns at either end. The two front rooms upstairs and down, the graceful stair, the downstairs bedroom, the fireplaces, chimneys and probably the door casings in those rooms, which have circle-motif corner blocks, date from the first house. Its downstairs ceilings are about eleven feet high and the same spacious height has been used in subsequent additions.

In 1916, after Hugh H. Hardin had bought the property, the house was remodelled and enlarged. The old kitchen and porches were removed and a new kitchen and breakfast room were added in a rear wing on the east end, as well as a back stair, back halls, bedrooms and baths, and a sleeping porch over the downstairs kitchen wing. The house became U-shaped with a kitchen wing and a bedroom wing forming the arms. A hip roof was put over the main body of the house. Windows, exterior doors, and Adamesque mantels date from 1916. The original entrance hall was rather cramped and Mr. Hardin desired the stairs moved back. The contractor was certain it could not be done, but Mr. Hardin accomplished it himself. The dominant exterior features of the now neo-classical house are the full-width, two-story portico with Corinthian columns and pilasters and a generous side porch and porte-cochere with smaller Doric columns. The wide dentilled cornice of the portico extends along the side of the house. Anthemions are tucked into the corners of the boxing under the eaves. The new steps were made from Oglethorpe County granite.

Although dating from only ten years ago (1966-1967), the latest changes in the house are here recorded because, like the first and second stages, they are of high quality. They center about the addition of a large library at the rear of the house with bedroom and dressing room above, and other additions or rearrangements of baths, laundry and halls. The library is Georgian in style, with the high ceilings characteristic of the house, and a fireplace. It is completely paneled in walnut with raised fielded panels and is a very handsome room. This work was done for Mr. and Mrs. Graham Wright.

The design of the ground has evolved from a simple, rather rural character in the 19th century toward a more romantic treatment. Mr. and Mrs. Hardin replaced the first, straight lane with curving drives. The old tree box on either side of the front steps date from the Sharps' time, but Mrs. Hardin planted the American box, now very tall, which line the drives. Perhaps the slope from the

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

house to Lee Street had been cleared by Mr. Sharp's predecessors and he planted the trees around the house, for they are rather small in the old photograph mentioned above. Now they are splendid, mostly oaks of several species.

The Sharps' barn was only several hundred feet behind the house. The Hardins had it torn down and a new barn built farther back. The aerial photograph taken in the 1930's shows the new gambrel-roofed barn and the old barn being dismantled. Now that the family no longer keeps riding horses and other stock, most of the other outbuildings have been removed, however, the new barn remains. A sunken garden has replaced the old barn lot: a smooth lawn bordered by shrubs and a curving pierced wall with the pecan orchard beyond.

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 checked="" 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 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)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

History

SPECIFIC DATES 1836; 1916; 1966-67. BUILDER/ARCHITECT Dougherty and Gardner (1916)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The twelve-acre tract on which Hil'ardin. the Sharp-Hardin-Wright House, is situated is a small portion of lot 172, 202 1/2 acres, in district 6, Monroe County. The county was organized and lots drawn by lottery in 1821. John Pendris drew lot 172 (the deed is in the possession of the Wrights). Subsequent owners were Issac Wealch (by 1828), Thomas T. Napier (1828) and Absalom H. Chappell (1829) (Monroe County Deed Books F, p. 113; G, p. 2). It appears from the prices at which the land changed hands that Pendris or Wealch had made improvements, perhaps a small dwelling and outbuildings.

From this time on, lot 172 was subdivided. Most or all of it came to lie within the city limits of Forsyth. In 1834, Cyrus Sharp bought about 42 acres from Chappell in the southeast corner of lot 172, and the next year, about 41 adjacent acres from Henry Long (Deed Book I, p. 23, 205). Sharp's land was mostly bordered on the west by the road to Knoxville in Crawford County, known today as the Russellville Road, and still the west border of the tract. Sharp is thought to have built, c.1836, the two-story frame house which forms the oldest part of the present dwelling. He called his place "Rose Hill". Sharp, a merchant, was said to have built the first brick store building in Forsyth. In 1893 his son, Cyrus H. Sharp, clerk of court of Monroe County, bought the place from his father's estate (Deed Book Y, p. 542-543).

Subsequently, a road to Montpelier was cut along the east side of the property. In 1909 the Sharp place was cut into small tracts and sold. Hugh H. Hardin (at first with his father, T. J. Hardin), bought the tracts one by one and eventually reassembled all the original Sharp acreage (Deed Books 34, p. 579; 35, p. 85, 117 and 177). The 76 acres lying within the forks of the road are still in the Hardin family. Of these, twelve acres now belong to the old house, from the fork of the roads to a line just south of the new barn shown in the aerial photograph; the house has been owned since 1966 by Mr. and Mrs. Graham Wright (Hazel Hardin) (Deed Book 76, p. 180). Mr. and Mrs. Nat A. Hardin and Mr. and Mrs. Lee T. Newton (Catherine Hardin) own land south of the old house and each family has built a home there.

The Sharp place had the numerous outbuildings usual in the 19th century, some of which are recorded in the 1930's aerial photograph. The frame building with three windows to the left rear of the house was once the kitchen until moved away from the house at the time of the 1916 remodeling. (It was probably the second kitchen, replacing an earlier detached building). Surviving today is the small frame building at the extreme right, once a servant's house but always used for storage by the Hardins.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cooper, Patricia Irvin, personal inspection, October 1977.
 Perkerson, Medora Field, White Columns in Georgia (New York, Holt Rinehart and Winston, 1952), p. 316. (Date is inaccurate and name of house misspelled)

Monroe County Deed Books: F, G, I, Y, 34, 35, 76

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 12

QUADRANGLE NAME Forsyth, Georgia

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	7	2	2	5	5	1	0	3	6	5	8	1	7	0
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B

1	7	2	2	5	6	7	5	3	6	5	7	8	7	0
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ZONE EASTING 400 NORTHING 880

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

1	7	2	2	5	3	8	0	3	6	5	7	8	7	0
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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From Monroe County, Ga. (Deed Book 35, p. 85), Deed from J. A. Bagwell to H. H. Hardin, 3rd of January 1911: "... All tract... containing (12) twelve acres...known as part of the Cyrus H. Sharp home place in the southern part

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

Patricia Irvin Cooper/Martha F. Norwood, Consultant, Historic Preservation Section

ORGANIZATION

Historic Preservation Section

DATE

November 1977

STREET & NUMBER

270 Washington Street, SW

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 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

Elizabeth A. Lyon

8/17/78

DATE

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Robert Charles Adams

DATE 6/22/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

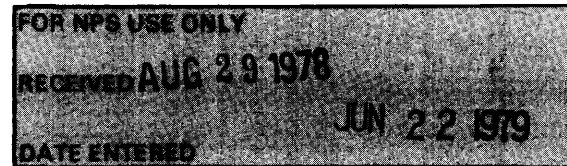
ATTEST: *Shirley J. Nits*

DATE 6/20/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

In 1916, Hugh H. Hardin had the house remodeled and considerably enlarged, as described above, following the design of Dougherty and Gardner, Architects, of Atlanta and Nashville. Mrs. Hardin renamed the place Hil 'ardin. Mr. and Mrs. Wright bought the house and twelve acres in 1966 and repairs, redecoration and additions were begun that year, also described above, the work of Matthews, Holliday, Couch and Hollis, Architects of Macon.

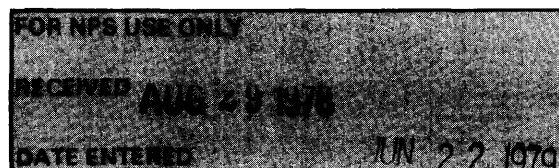
Hugh H. Hardin's business interests included banking, cotton mills, timber, lumber yards and petroleum products. His son, Nat A. Hardin, carries on the family business. H. H. Hardin married Katie Mae Arnold, daughter of Nat D. Arnold, a prominent businessman in Oglethorpe County and Athens, and his wife, nee Annie Susan Callaway. In the early 1960's, Mrs. Hardin and her children gave Callaway land and buildings in Wilkes County to the City of Washington. This donation, called the Callaway Plantation and now comprising 56 acres, is a complex of dwellings and farm buildings spanning the 19th century, authentically restored, and a small working farm, as well.

The changes in the Sharp-Hardin-Wright House and grounds reflect changes in expectations and taste in widely separated periods. Twice enlarged, the house exhibits features in Federal, neo-classical and neo-Georgian styles. Similarly, the grounds, by the relocation of the barn and the addition of curving box-lined drives and a sunken garden, have passed from an unsophisticated rural character to the planned, but romantic landscaping of an estate.

(It may be noted that ever since the 1909 division of the Sharp land (see Deed Book 34, p. 579), the "home place" tract has comprised twelve acres).

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CONTINUATION SHEET Verbal Boundary Description ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

of the City of Forsyth fronting South Lee Street (60) sixty feet, thence along the public road leading from Forsyth to Russellville (1001) ... feet, thence east (970) ... feet to the public road leading from Forsyth to Montpelier, thence along the Montpelier road (960) ... feet to South Lee Street".

6.4.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

SUPPLEMENT

HIL'ARDIN/SHARP-HARDIN-WRIGHT HOUSE
212 South Lee Street, Forsyth, Monroe County, Georgia

Description:

Additional photographs which more fully describe the property are included in this supplement. The photographs were taken by the Historic Preservation Section staff photographer in April 1979.

A new property map which more closely outlines the boundaries of the nominated property is also included in this supplement.

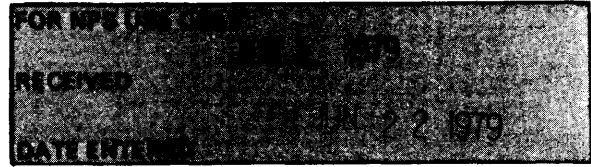
Significance:

Architectural

Hil'ardin (the Sharp-Hardin-Wright House) is significant in the history of architecture in Georgia. Hil'ardin is essentially an early twentieth century Neo-Classical house. The front (north) facade is especially revealing in this respect: a monumental two-story portico with giant Corinthian columns and full entablature, flanking one-story Ionic porticoes, symmetric five-bay facade centered around entry and balcony doorways, paneled doors with elliptical transom lights and side lights, and second-story balcony. This Neo-Classical composition is carefully proportioned and finely detailed. It not only makes a fine front for the house but also presents a good image toward the town center directly north on South Lee Street. In addition to its architectural distinction, Hil'ardin represents locally the type of house being built by prominent citizens in small towns all across Georgia at the time. The Neo-Classical house became as important a symbol for post-Reconstruction Georgia as the Greek Revival plantation for antebellum Georgia.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Supplement ITEM NUMBER PAGE 2

Hil'ardin is given further prestige by its association with a Georgia architect. Its design quality can be attributed at least in part to Edward Dougherty who, with an architect named Gardner from Nashville, Tennessee, was retained by Hugh H. Hardin in 1916 to completely remodel the Old Cyrus Sharp home. Dougherty (1876-1944) was a native Atlantan who graduated from the University of Georgia at Athens and attended the Cornell School of Architecture for three years before opening a professional office in Atlanta in 1910. A few years later Dougherty moved his office to Nashville; his association with Gardner during the design of Hil'ardin may have been a predisposing cause for the move. While practicing in Nashville, Dougherty was known for his designs for churches in several Southern cities including Knoxville, Winston-Salem, and New Orleans. Dougherty was also associated with McKim, Mead and White on the War Memorial in Nashville.

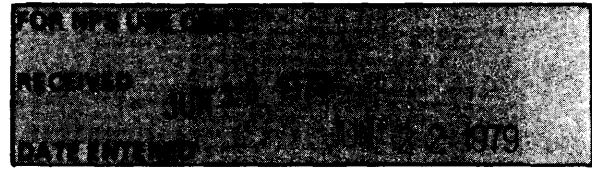
Hil'ardin is made more interesting by the fact that this Neo-Classical house was formed in part around an existing early nineteenth century farmhouse. While little is left of the original c. 1836 Cyrus Sharp house, especially on the exterior, the front rooms, stairway, fireplaces and chimneys (but not mantels), door casings, and foundation sills of the Hugh H. Hardin house date from this time. Hil'ardin reveals the evolution of a house from a plain early nineteenth century farmhouse to a distinguished early twentieth century town house. It reflects the continued occupancy and periodic remodelings and enlargements so common to domestic buildings of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It also indicates the continuing role that classical architectural tradition played in Georgia, from the early nineteenth century Greek Revival to the early twentieth century Neo-Classical. In a similar way, Hil'ardin has accommodated more recent changes in the form of a Georgian Revival addition to the south side of the house. This addition was designed by Matthews, Holliday, Couch, and Hollis, architects in Macon, Georgia. Although not entirely in keeping with the Greek Revival-Neo-Classical traditions, it does continue the evolutionary character of the house.

Grounds

The landscaped grounds around Hil'ardin, like the house, have evolved over time. They have always possessed character and integrity, however, and they have always been in consonance with the architecture. Originally the grounds possessed a simple rural character. The front yard featured a long straight driveway with

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CONTINUATION SHEET Supplement ITEM NUMBER PAGE 3

trees and lawn to either side; the back yard was devoted to agriculture. In the early twentieth century these grounds, like the nineteenth century house, were altered according to a more romantic, picturesque, "English" aesthetic. The front yard featured double curving driveways, clumps and groves of bushes and trees, and irregularly spaced expanses of lawn. Subsequently the agricultural back yard was replaced by a sunken garden, lawn, and garden walls backing up on a pecan orchard.

Outbuildings

Little significance can be ascribed to the outbuildings or to any archaeological potential resulting from them. Most of the historic outbuildings (including the barn) have been demolished, and their sites have been disturbed by new construction or landscaping. Little is known about the surviving outbuildings except that they have been moved and reused. The twelve acre "home place" has been intact since 1909, however, and has throughout history constituted the immediate grounds of the Sharp-Hardin-Wright house.

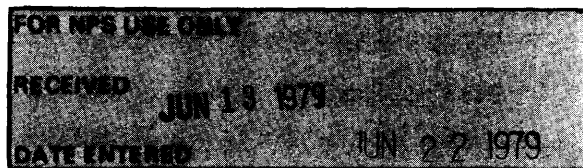
Hugh H. Hardin

The association of Hil'ardin with Hugh H. Hardin is historically important as Hardin was undoubtedly the most prominent citizen in Forsyth in the early twentieth century. His business interests were many and varied. It was suggested in 1942, for example, that Hardin probably headed more companies than any other man in Georgia. He was president of the Fickett Cotton Mills, president of the Citizens Bank of Forsyth, the Arnoldsville Trading Company, and the Hardin Trading Company. He also headed the Refiners Oil Cooperations, which operated in Atlanta and Dalton as well as Forsyth, the Speed Oil Companies of Georgia which operated 45 stations across the state, and the Speed Transport Company of Forsyth. In addition, Hardin had interests in the Hardin Lumber Company and the H. H. and N. A. Hardin Company. In addition to these many business involvements, Hardin also served as mayor of Forsyth from 1914 to 1916. During a critical period in Forsyth's education history, from 1921-1925, Hardin financed the board of education.

Hil'ardin's associations with Hugh H. Hardin thus relate it directly to major economic forces in Forsyth's early twentieth century development.

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Geographical Data:

Acreage: 12 Acres

Quadrangle Name: Forsyth, Georgia

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	225510	3658170
B	17	225675	3657870
C	17	225400	3657880

Verbal Boundary Description: See the original nomination form.

Form Prepared By:

Richard Cloues, Architectural Historian
Steve Hensen, Researcher
Historic Preservation Section
Department of Natural Resources
270 Washington Street, S. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
(404) 656-2840

April 27, 1979

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon, Ph.D., Chief
Historic Preservation Section
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

5/23/79
Date