

PH002 3451

6th Congressional District
John J. Flynt, Jr.

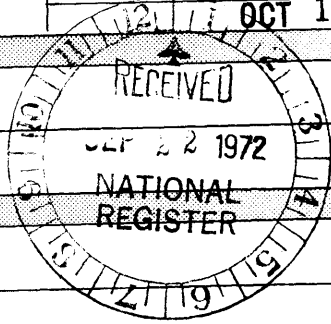
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

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:	Spalding
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 18 1972



1. NAME
COMMON:
Mills House
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Lewis-Mills House

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
406 North Hill Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Griffin
STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Spalding CODE: 255

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 type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<u>Apartments</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME:
James H. Estes
STREET AND NUMBER:
824 Sunnybrook Drive
CITY OR TOWN:
Griffin
STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Spalding County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER:
East Solomon Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Griffin
STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey (Rev. Gibson House)
DATE OF SURVEY: 1936 Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress
STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington
CITY OR TOWN:
Washington
STATE: D.C. CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Georgia
COUNTY: Spalding
ENTRY NUMBER: OCT 18 1972
DATE: OCT 18 1972
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

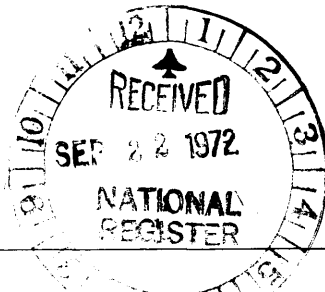
The Lewis-Mills House is a finely detailed Greek Revival structure situated on a corner lot at North Hill and Tinsley Streets along the northernmost boundary of the original town plan of Griffin. It is a starkly geometric, two-story, hipped roof building fronted by a monumentally scaled portico. Four colossal square-profile Doric columns support a simply molded entablature under a pediment whose gable roof is perpendicular to the facade. The walls are brick stuccoed over and scored on the two street facades. Low triangular pediments on simply molded vertical panels frame the tall windows of each story. Original six-over-six light windows remain in the second floor while first-story panes have been replaced by larger units, probably done during a remodeling in the nineteen-twenties. The molded detailing elaborates all windows of the front and two side faces of the building, although the pattern of the openings is varied on the north facade. Here, instead of four windows evenly spaced, a pair of windows in both rear rooms reflects the special window treatment of the original dining room in the northeast corner. At the back of this face a two-story wing, carried out very much in the spirit of the original section although with arched window openings, is a later addition. The entrance doorway is framed by rectangular fan and side lights separated by fluted strips, and enclosed within a low triangular lintel and pilaster strips. This treatment is echoed in the doorway to a hanging balcony above. An additional refinement in the exterior detailing, which also appears in windows inside the house, is the angled recess in which the door opening is placed. Similar framing and side lights, with the angled recess omitted, appear in the rear doorways at both levels. Here a two-story porch extends across the rear facade.

The four-room, wide, central hall plan is the typical Greek Revival plan common to piedmont Georgia in the 1840's and 50's. A straight-run stairway returned to the upstairs hall is located at the rear of the hall. Wide arched openings, now filled in, lead into both front rooms. Indentations in the plaster indicate the former location of moldings framing these arches.

The fireplaces of the interior chimneys are still framed by the original, low, rectangularly proportioned pilaster and entablature units. Downstairs, the entablature panel is given special emphasis by an additional flat, but curved wooden panel. Windows upstairs and in the original dining room downstairs are recessed on an angle in a similar manner to the treatment of the entrance doorway. Most windows and doors carry eared and molded framing.

Although this once fine house is deteriorated and being used for several apartments, most of the original detailing, both inside and out, remains. The basic structure of the building appears sound and very few alterations in the original plan have been made to accommodate the apartments.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



3. SIGNIFICANCE

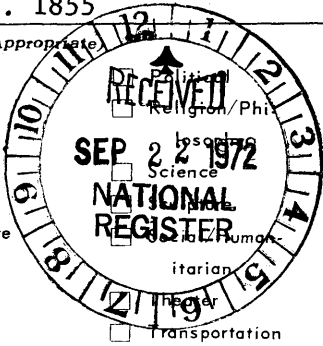
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) C. 1855

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>History</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lewis-Mills House is an exceptionally fine example in this area of the temple front Greek Revival town house. Elements of both its interior detailing and exterior form are reminiscent of work elsewhere in the state that is known to be by architect Charles B. Cluskey. For most of its history this building, which dates from the 1850's, was occupied by members and relatives of a prominent Griffin family, the Mills. It has long been known simply as the Mills House.

The house was built, however, for the Lewis family, originally from Massachusetts, during the decade before the Civil War. Mrs. Emily W. Lewis, a widow, was living in the house during the war with her granddaughter, Lavonia Hammond. Lavonia's reminiscences of later years included a description of the supper served by her grandmother to Yankee soldiers in the big dining room. She also remembered the temporary hospital for Confederate soldiers which her grandmother with several other women set up in her home. Robert Toombs, Alexander Stephens and Benjamin Hill, all noted Georgians and friends of her father, William W. Hammond, she reports, were entertained there. After the war, William W. Hammond, whose wife, Anna Blount, died when Lavonia was only six years old, continued to live in the house with Mrs. Lewis and his five children. Hammond was apparently a son of Mrs. Lewis by an earlier marriage. It is rumored that Mrs. Lewis, a very wealthy woman before the war, was in financial difficulty afterward. The style of living which her granddaughter remembers does not indicate this, but the deed records do suggest some problems. In 1862, Obediah Gibson, in return for the payment of \$7500 for two promissory notes given in 1860, deeded to William W. Hammond the property "now occupied by said William W. Hammond and Emily W. Lewis." Lavonia Hammond's marriage in 1878 to John B. Mills was only one of many that were solemnized in the family home. Later, in 1901, when Mrs. Lewis died, John B. Mills purchased the home from his wife's brothers and sisters. When Lavonia Hammond Mills died in 1936 the house passed out of the Mills family. Owned by a succession of people and later rented for apartments, the house, nevertheless, continued to be associated with the Mills family name.

The Mills family originally came to Griffin from Savannah during the Reconstruction period. The Mills brothers, Thomas R., Charles and James, had been large shippers of cotton from Savannah to Liverpool. They were also large stockholders in the Marine Bank of Savannah, who protected the assets of this bank in London during the Civil War. The brothers thus emerged from the war in a better financial position than many Southern businessmen. In 1875 Thomas R. Mills retired and built a summer home, Brookfield, outside of Griffin. Thomas brought with him one of his youngest sons, John Blakely, who married Lavonia Hammond in 1878 and subsequently

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Nichols, Frederick D., The Early Architecture of Georgia (Chapel Hill, 1957).
 Melton, Quimby Jr., History of Griffin, 1840-1900 (Griffin, 1959).
 Goddard, Thomas H. and John H., Jr., The Mills, Cope and Related Families of Georgia (Philadelphia, 1962).
 Deed Records, Spalding County.
 Interview with John H. Goddard, June, 1972.
 Personal Inspection, May 1972, Elizabeth A. Lyon

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	°	'	"	°	'	"	33°	15'	14"	84°	15'	50"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3/4 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Dr. Elizabeth A. Lyon, Consultant to Griffin Historical & Preservation Society
 ORGANIZATION: Emory University, Institute of Liberal Arts DATE: June 1972
 STREET AND NUMBER:
1380 South Oxford Rd., N.E.
 CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

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. Pruitt

Title State Liaison Officer

Date September 15, 1972

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

Robert M. Wiley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/18/72

ATTEST:
William J. Pruitt
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 10-15-72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Georgia	
COUNTY Spalding	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
OCT 18 1972	

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

moved into the Lewis mansion. John and Lavonia had no children, but John's younger brother James McIntosh had four. The youngest of these was named John Blakely and his descendants still live in Griffin.

The house which was built by the family of Lavonia Hammond Mills has been an integral part of the history of Griffin from its earliest period of growth. In addition, it is a fine example of the architecture of its era. The stark geometry of its exterior form, as well as such interior details as the carved doorway moldings, suggest the influence, if not the hand of Charles B. Cluskey. This Georgia architect, who lived and worked in Savannah in the mid-nineteenth century, also designed important buildings in Augusta and Milledgeville. Since Griffin families had connections in both Savannah and Milledgeville, and Cluskey was in Georgia during the period when the house was built, it is tempting to speculate on the possibility of his influence. The Mills House, though not as large, bears some resemblance in its overall form to the Governor's Mansion in Milledgeville. Even though it has been neglected in recent years, this structure conveys a forceful and monumental appearance on its generous lot at the corner of East Tinsley and North Hill Streets.



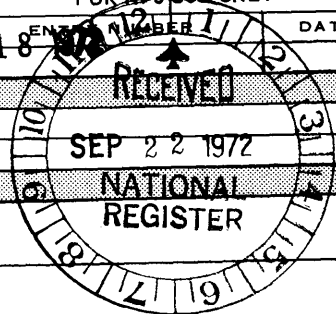
Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

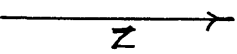
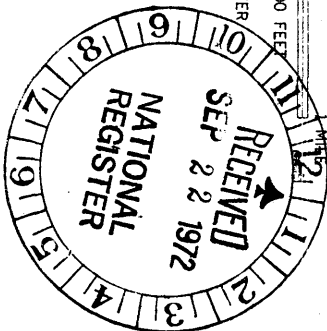
STATE	Georgia
COUNTY	Spalding
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTERED	DATE
OCT 18 1972	



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Mills House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Lewis-Mills House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
406 North Hill Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Griffin			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Georgia	13	Spalding	255
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
Geological Survey, Department of Interior			
SCALE: 1:24,000			
DATE: 1965			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

ALL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 URVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
 AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty
- Medium-duty
- Light-duty
- Unimproved dirt
- U.S. Route
- State Route

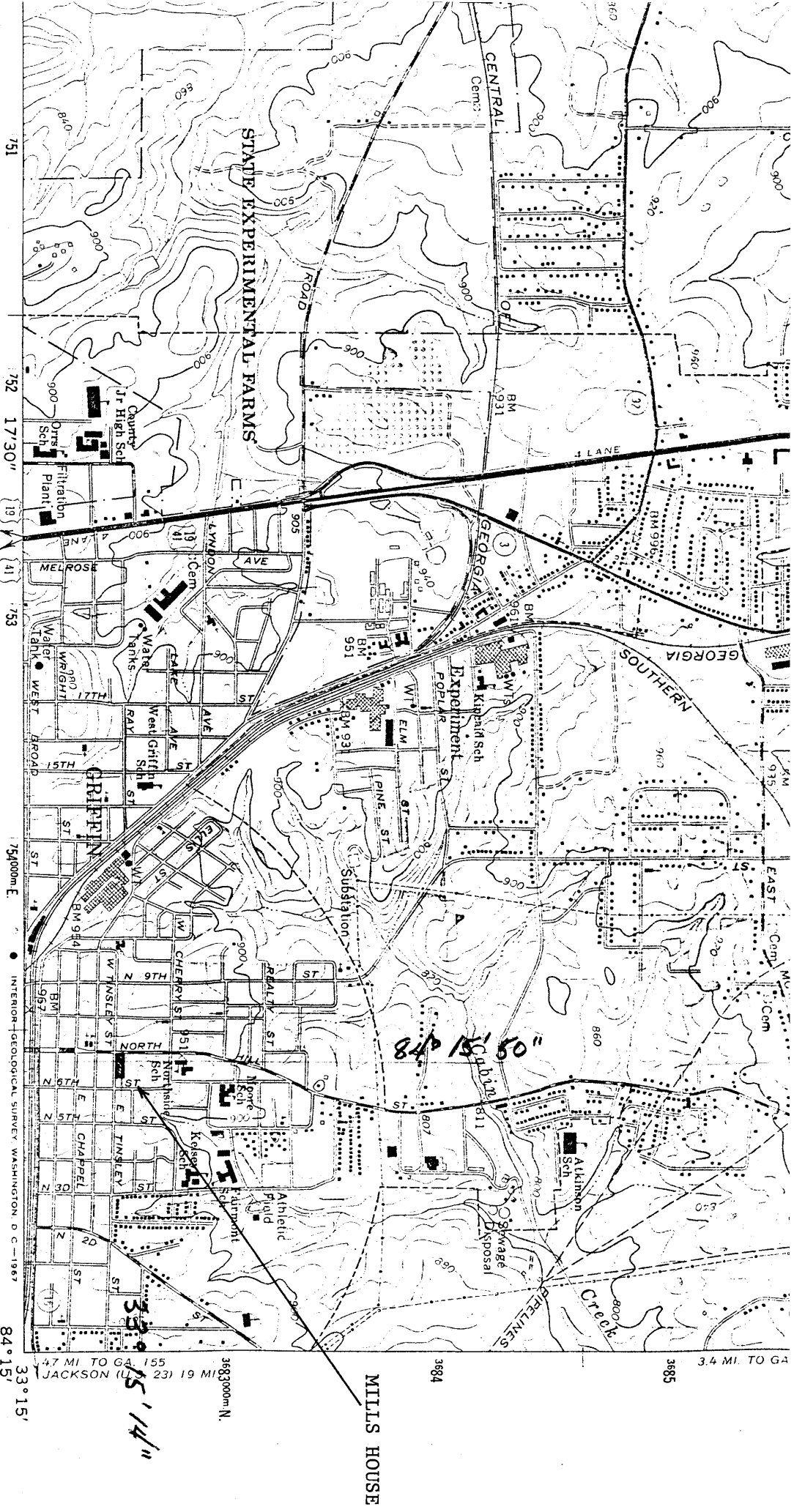
GRIFFIN NORTH, GA.

N3315—W8415/7.5

1965

AMS 4150 IV SE—SERIES V845

(BARNEYSVILLE)
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