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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (II known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Architects agree that Milford, built in 1839, is purest Greek Revival. The facade has six magnificent carved columns on granite bases which support a classic portico with a parapet adorned with a Greek motif. The capitals are copies from the Choragic momument in Athens, erected to honor Lysicrates for his victory in a musical contest, and this same Greek motif is carried out in wood, marble, plaster, bronze and glass in all the decorations of the house, both in the exterior and interior. In the exterior wall on each side a niche contains a small classical statue. Although set in solitary splendor in the High Hills of the Santee surrounded by woods, with a wide lawn sloping toward Tavern Creek other Plantations were actually nearby, including Hawthorne Hill and Cedarhurst, both belonging to the Richardson family.

The walls of Milford, two feet thick, are of handmade brick burned on the place, but the granite came by boat from Rhode Island, and much of the marble as well as the carving and ornamentation came from abroad.

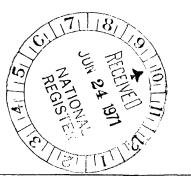
The entrance is unique, having Greek ornamentation over the entablature which is supported by a classic column and pilaster on either side of the doors.

At the rear through curved mahogany doors one enters the rotunda, separated from the main hall by massive double doors and side lights. It rises to the roof culminating in an art-glass eye, framed by elaborate carving. There, in a setting built for it, is the imposing, unsupported, flying, circular stair.

The interior plan is typical of most Southern Colonial homes having a spacious center hall extending the entire depth of the house, flanked by front and rear parlors on one side and a library and dining room on the other. The end of the dining room is curved where the china and silver closets are located on either side of the door to the library, each with a curved mahogany door and curved interior shelving. On the first two floors ceiling heights are fifteen feet and nine feet on the third floor.

In the parlors entire walls are covered by gold framed mirrors and between the two are movable, mirror-lined walls which, when folded back, make a ballroom, the only separation then being four supporting columns topped by the usual Greek capitals. Here on the mantles you can see the motif in marble. On the east side of the house the mantles are all white marble and on the west, black. The solid but panelled blinds occur throughout the house except on the third floor where the windows resemble portholes with a carved wreath on the outside.

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Symbolic of the rural community life which flourished before the Civil War, Milford represents the highest development of all forms of plantation activity, social, political and, with St. Mark's Episcopal Church only a mile away, religious also. Having had the unusual good fortune to escape being burned by Sherman's troops, it remains a museum piece of the traditional antebellum south.

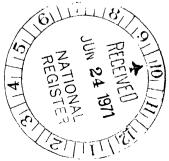
The Mannings, who were the original builders, contributed many Governors to the State of South Carolina and were leaders in politics and society in that area.

Architecturally it is unique in the South and when the Governor built it earned the title of "Manning's Folly" since its location was so remote and the details so elaborate.

The State of South Carolina is fortunate that such a perfect example of historic and architectural value has been preserved to the present day.

Milford was the outstanding plantation home in the area when shortstaple cotton reached its apogee in South Carolina. The home and the acreage exemplify this era when cotton was king better than any other in the state. According to Columbia Architect G. Thomas Harmon, Milford is the loveliest house in South Carolina. Walter Petty, FAIA, values it as probably the outstanding Greek Revival plantation home in the South.

The Manning family owned Milford until 1903, when it was purchased by Mary Clark Thompson. Inheriting the estate from her was her nephew, Emory W. Clark. His heir was his son, W. E. Reeve Clark, the present owner.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGR	APHICAL RI	FERENCI	ÉS						
Bibliography									
Gunby, Olive F <u>The Geor</u>	. "Millfo gian Peri	ord in t od. Ar	he l chi	ligh H tectur	il al	ls of Santo Book Publ:	ee, South ishing Co	Carolina." Dmpany, 1902	
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2. STATE LIAISON					T			R VERIFICATIO	N
As the designated State Liaison Officer for the Na- tional 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 Locat Name Locat Title Director, S.C. Department of Archives & History				I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register. <u>Mult (Cuually</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation <b>NOV</b> 19 1977' Date ATTEST: <u>MULL MULL</u>					
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Form	10-300a
(Dec.	1968)

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

#### INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

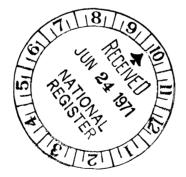
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# 7. Description: Milford Plantation

Modern features for the period were central heating, running water and two passageways at the rear connecting with kitchen on one side and the laundry on the other with servants' rooms over each.

Of the remaining dependencies the water tower and Spring House are on a scale with the mansion, the latter a replica of part of Trinity Church in Columbia. The stable still standing is tremendous, containing 26 standing stalls, carriage room, and tack room behind its elaborate columns.

Few changes have been made in the original design and these consist of a powder room in the rotunda under the stairs, a pantry between the dining room and the passageway to the kitchen, and an additional bath room on the second floor.



Form 10-300a (Dec. 1968)

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

### INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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Milford Plantation 8. Significance (continued):

> Milford is the main house on a plantation tract of 4,251 acres. From the total acreage, the 712 acres surrounding the house are included in this nomination as an example of a plantation and timberland area (such large land holdings in a family ownership are increasingly rare in South Carolina) and also as a buffer to protect Milford against all possible encroachments. The 712 acres selected effectively protect the house area and also represent the nucleus of the plantation. Please see timber map enclosed as supplementary information to indicate the scope of the entire plantation.