

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

MAR 2 1976

DATE ENTERED

JUL 12 1976

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 *aka* Hofwyl - Broadfield Plantation

AND/OR COMMON
Hofwyl Plantation

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *N of Brunswick*
U.S. Highway 17

CITY, TOWN

Brunswick

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st - Bo Ginn

STATE

Georgia

VICINITY OF
CODE

13

COUNTY

Glynn

CODE

127

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
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM (in process)
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Parks and Historic Sites; Department of Natural Resources

STREET & NUMBER
270 Washington Street SW

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia 30334

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Glynn County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Brunswick

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

Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation lies on the marshes of the Altamaha River between Brunswick and Darien, Georgia. In the nineteenth century, the marshes were well-tended fields of rice and the thriving rice plantation, first known as Broadfield and later divided, was one of many such plantations along the coast of Georgia.

Of the nominated property, a large percentage makes up the former rice fields. Only the vague outlines of these fields are still discernible, although the embankments and, in some cases, remnants of the trunks, or water ducts, are still visible on close inspection.

The house itself, built atypically low to the ground, features functional, unadorned architecture. Hofwyl House was probably the second dwelling built on the property, as the original Broadfield House is no longer extant. (The family tradition, that Broadfield House burned in 1858, cannot be documented.) The two-story structure was probably built by slave labor in the decade of the 1850's, although an exact date cannot be determined. It is built around a central hallway with a basic four-room plan consisting of a parlor, bedroom, dining room and kitchen on the ground floor and three large bedrooms, one small bedroom and bath upstairs, formerly one large bedroom. There are two screened porches on the west and east sides and the original kitchen has been connected to the house by a former butler's pantry, now the kitchen. Also connected to the house in an asymmetrical line stretching to the west is a small double-roomed cabin which was used as a laundry and storeroom.

The interior features federally influenced architectural details, such as the fanlight above the main door and the lunettes on either side, but is otherwise almost devoid of decoration. An exception is the marble mantelpiece in the dining room, which family legend tells was brought from the ruins of another family home, allegedly designed by William Jay. This house would probably have been the family "town" house in Darien, which would have burned in the Civil War destruction of that town. The ornate design of the mantelpiece consists of spiral pilasters and an ornamental frieze.

Another outstanding feature of the house is the furniture which has been collected there by many generations of family members and reflects several centuries of changing furniture styles. A number of rare, Charleston-made pieces include a secretary in the parlor (c. 1790) and a four-poster bed, two posters of which are delicately incised in a rice-plant pattern.

The grounds immediately around the house are landscaped with oak trees many centuries old, a unique sago palm, and two large magnolias on the front lawn. At the rear of the house are the outbuildings, most dating from the early twentieth century, consisting of a dairy, milking barns, hay barn, equipment shed, feed house, pay shed and an ice house. Tabby ruins, probably the foundation of the rice mill, are located to the north of the house, near the site of the original Broadfield House. The remainder of the nominated property consists primarily of pine covered uplands which were all a part of the original plantation.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation is derived from its having been a center for the cultivation of rice in the coastal Georgia rice society of the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation of today is the result of the accumulation of several parcels of land by William Brailsford and his son-in-law, James McGilivray Troup in the early nineteenth century. Prior to this, however, the land had been owned by two prominent men of the Revolutionary Era; Henry Laurens, a South Carolinian who succeeded John Hancock as president of the Continental Congress in 1777 and his friend, Lachlan McIntosh of Georgia, a Revolutionary general who attained notoriety by killing Button Gwinnett (one of Georgia's Signers) in a duel. Laurens obtained Broughton Island, located in the Altamaha River across from the present Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation, through a series of trades with McIntosh, and was granted 3,000 acres on the adjoining mainland (now part of Hofwyl Plantation) which he named New Hope. He secured the ownership of a tract of land called Broadface, located on the north boundary of New Hope, for his friend, While McIntosh does not appear to have put Broadface to any use, Laurens founded a thriving rice plantation on Broughton and later began a sister plantation at New Hope.

Following his death, Laurens' heirs placed Broughton Island on the market and, although there are no conclusive records to prove it, it seems apparent that the island was purchased by William Brailsford of Charleston about 1803. Related by marriage to a rice-planting "dynasty," the Heywards of South Carolina, he seems to have planned an absentee-owner rice plantation on the island. These plans were cancelled, however, by a hurricane in the fall of 1804 which devastated the island and killed over 70 slaves. The enormous financial loss brought Brailsford to Georgia permanently. He purchased a safer parcel of land, the lower third of Broadface, from Lachlan McIntosh's heirs, and renamed it Broadfield.

On his death in 1810, Brailsford left his wife, Maria Heyward Brailsford, and their daughter, Camilla, to manage the plantation. Although the estate was in debt, they appear to have accomplished this admirably until Camilla's marriage around 1814 to Dr. James Troup resulted in his responsibility for the family properties. Troup, the brother of Georgia Governor George M. Troup, added New Hope Plantation to Broadfield and, while he appears to have managed the plantations capably, does not seem to have done much toward lessening the family debt. At the time of his death, Troup was the owner of approximately 7,300 acres of land, two tabby houses, one wooden house and between 300 and 350 slaves, but the settlement of the estate took approximately six years. Broadfield and New Hope were divided into three parcels and

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Glynn County, Georgia, Deed Books, Will Books and Estate Records
 Dent, Ophelia Troup, Memoirs, unpublished, 1902-1904, original located at Hofwyl House
 Chesnut, David Rogers. South Carolina's Expansion into Colonial Georgia, 1720-1765
 PhD, University of Georgia, 1973.
 Jackson, Harvey Hardaway. General Lachlan McIntosh, 1727-1806: A Biography
 PhD, University of Georgia, 1973.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1,268 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1,7 | 4,5,8 | 5,4,0 | 3,4,6,6 | 1,6,0 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C | 1,7 | 4,5,6 | 8,2,0 | 3,4,6,2 | 0,4,0 |

E 1 7 4 5 5 7 3 0 3 4 6 3 3 5 0
 Zone Easting Northing
 F 1 7 4 5 7 9 8 0 3 4 6 6 2 5 0
 Zone Easting Northing
 B | 1,7 | 4,5,8 | 2,5,0 | 3,4,6,4 | 3,8,0 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D | 1,7 | 4,5,5 | 5,7,0 | 3,4,6,0 | 9,0,0 |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Starting at a point where Dent's Creek enters the South Branch of the Altamaha River, the boundary line follows the river bank south approximately 1,600 feet and from this point continues southwest approximately 6,500 feet. From this point, the line continues south approximately 3,000 feet, then turns southwest for approximately 5,225 feet to the Petersville Road. It follows this road north approximately 5,600 feet, then, leaving the road, travels northeast approximately 2,300 feet to an old cemetery. At this point the boundary line continues northwest

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

Victoria Reeves Gunn, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Preservation Section; Department of Natural Resources January 20, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

270 Washington Street SW

404/656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Atlanta

Georgia

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

[Signature] 2-20-76

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

7/12/96

ACTING DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

6-25-76

ACTING KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

RBR for WJM 7/8/76

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distributed among Troup's children. The center portion, comprising the lower part of Broadfield and a section of New Hope, was a legacy to Troup's daughter, Ophelia, and her husband, George Columbus Dent. Their portion was named Hofwyl in honor of the school Dent had attended in Switzerland.

The exact construction date of the still-extant house at Hofwyl cannot be determined, although it was probably built sometime in the 1850's. In her memoirs, Ophelia Troup Dent stated that the house was not completed at the outbreak of the Civil War, but she may have been referring to repairs and renovations. Certainly the Civil War was a disruption, not only to the family, which fled to Ware County, Georgia for the duration of the war, but also to the rice-producing industry, which never recovered completely on the southeastern coastline. An unstable economy, the devastated rice fields and the newly liquid work force following the war combined to prevent the rice industry from ever retaining a secure hold on the coast again.

It was George and Ophelia Dent's son, James Troup Dent, who presided over the rebuilding of Hofwyl Plantation following the war. With the help of his wife, Miriam Cohen, the daughter of a prominent Savannah merchant and descendant of Rebecca Gratz, allegedly the model for Sir Walter Scott's "Rebecca" in Ivanhoe, the younger Dent repurchased both Hofwyl and Broadfield from mortgage foreclosures, thus bringing the property together again under one-family ownership.

While rice was planted at Hofwyl-Broadfield as late as 1917, it was never the profitable crop which it was before the Civil War. Early in the twentieth century a dairy was established at Hofwyl which sustained the family for many years. James Troup Dent's heirs, Miriam and Ophelia Dent, lived at Hofwyl House the remainder of their lives. On Miss Ophelia Dent's death in 1973, Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation was offered without cost to the Department of Natural Resources as the successor to the Georgia Historical Commission, to whom Miss Dent had willed her plantation.

Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation, therefore, exemplifies over a century of Georgia's coastal history, particularly the development and decline of the rice industry. While the phenomenon of rice culture was of a regional nature, affecting large amounts of land on a number of coastal waterways, an analysis of Hofwyl-Broadfield plantation can help illuminate the ways of life which characterized the rice plantations and provided cultural antecedents for the diffusion of plantation living based on other regions and on other products.

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37 feet, then northeast 411 feet, then southeast 400 feet to U.S. Highway 17. The line then follows the highway northeast approximately 8,000 feet to the junction of the old Brunswick-Altamaha canal, and follows the canal approximately 750 feet northeast and then 300 feet northwest to the point where the canal enters the South Branch of the Altamaha River and follows the bank of the river approximately 7,620 feet to the starting point.