

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia	
COUNTY: Troup	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Bellevue *NML*

AND OR HISTORIC:  
Former home of Benjamin Harvey Hill

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
204 Ben Hill Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
LaGrange

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Troup CODE: 285

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"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Club meetings

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
LaGrange Woman's Club Charitable Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:  
204 Ben Hill Street

CITY OR TOWN: LaGrange STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Troup County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
118 Ridley Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: LaGrange STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Troup-Harris-Heard Comprehensive Survey for Ga. Historical Commission

DATE OF SURVEY: 1972  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Georgia Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
116 Mitchell St., SW

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

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DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Bellevue, an example of the domesticated temple form used in the Greek Revival style, was built between 1853 and 1855. Ionic columns with forward projecting scrolls on the capitals support a heavy entablature and form a wide two-story portico on three sides of the house. These projecting or turned capitals here are unusual as generally they appear only at a corner of such a colonnade. On the front facade heavy decorative bracketing for a second story balcony emphasizes the main entrance and the two flanking windows. The closely spaced turned bannisters make up the balustrade of this balcony that extends only along the front facade.

The interior of Bellevue features immense hallways and outstanding plaster cornices.

Behind the house was a kitchen. Far to the rear were the slave quarters, orchards, and vegetable gardens. The kitchen which was once removed from the house, now has a serving and pantry area connecting it to the main house. A back porch has also been added.

The grounds originally covered 1200 acres and were enclosed by a stone wall and massive gates, replicas of gates at the White House and said to cost \$12,000.

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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) 1853-5

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |   |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy   | <u>History</u>                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                  | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian   | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation           | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bellevue, the Greek Revival style home of the powerful orator and close constitution thinker, Benjamin Harvey Hill, presently serves as the clubhouse for the LaGrange Woman's Club.

Built in two years and said to be designed by a Mr. Taylor, Bellevue is an outstanding example of the Greek Revival style. The house, superbly sited on a slight rise, was introduced by an entrance lane, now called Ben Hill Street, lined with crepe myrtle and juniper trees. Each feature of detail and design is manifested in an elegantly elaborated form. The heavy entablature above the columns and the window frames exaggerate the details and form. The scrolled bracketing above the front facade windows and the unusual turned Ionic capitals add an almost baroque quality to this classical form.

Benjamin Harvey Hill had Bellevue built for his wife, Catherine Holt, sometime between 1853 and 1855. Hill was reared in Troup County from the age of ten, attended the University of Georgia at Athens and returned to LaGrange to practice law. He was elected to the Lower House of Georgia's General Assembly in 1851; was elected a member of the State Senate in 1859; elected to Congress from the 9th District in 1875; and elected to the United States Senate in 1877. Especially noted for his oratorical abilities, Hill, a Unionist and a Fillmore supporter, debated Robert Toombs and Alexander Stephens on the issues of the 1856 presidential campaign. These well-known heated debates precipitated Stephens' duel challenge to Hill, which was refused and followed by a fiery correspondence. Hill worked hard against secession, but once secession became a reality, he supported diligently the Confederacy when original secessionists deserted. After the war, although ardently opposed to the Reconstruction Acts, Hill again altered his policies with the altered circumstances and worked once more for the Union.

Bellevue, now preserved by the LaGrange Woman's Club, serves as a meeting place as well as a memorial to one of Georgia's outstanding statesmen.

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NATIONAL LANDMARK STATEMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

BELLEVUE

In LaGrange, superbly sited on a slight rise and introduced by a lane of crepe myrtle and juniper trees, is the High Style, two-story Greek Revival mansion, Bellevue. With its massive Ionic columns on three sides and elaborate door and window treatments it is as powerful visually as its original owner, Benjamin Harvey Hill, was verbally and politically. It is said to have been built by a Mr. Taylor over a period of two years, 1853-5; each feature of detail and design is manifested in an elegantly, elaborated form. On the front facade heavy decorative bracketing for a second story balcony emphasizes the main entrance and the two flanking windows. The immense hallway features elaborate cornice work and massive, garlanded door treatments. Few changes have been made; only simple rear additions have been made to the original structure.

Bellevue, beautifully preserved and maintained by the LaGrange Woman's Club, is one of the most exceptional Greek Revival style houses in a state well-known for its "White Columns". A perfect high style architectural expression of the historical importance of Senator Hill, it is the Greek Revival at the height of the South's power to express that style. (In its elaboration, it verges on a Victorian baroque interpretation of neo-classicism which pre-figured things to come.)