

PH002 3094

1st Congressional District

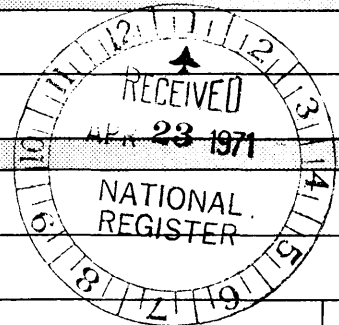
Form 10-300
(Dec. 1968)

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: CHATHAM	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71713.0027	DATE 7/14/71



1. NAME

COMMON:
Oliver Sturges House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
27 Abercorn Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Savannah

STATE Georgia	CODE 13	COUNTY: Chatham	CODE 051
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	Held for sale for restoration and used for tours.
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
119 Habersham Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Savannah

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Chatham County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Wright Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Savannah

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than one acre**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: (a) **Historic American Buildings Survey**
(b) **Historic Savannah Architectural Survey, Pub. 1968**

DATE OF SURVEY: (a) **1936** (b) **1962** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
(a) **Library of Congress, Division of Prints and Photographs**
(b) **Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc.**

STREET AND NUMBER:
(b) **119 Habersham Street**

CITY OR TOWN:
(a) **Washington, 25**
(b) **Savannah**

STATE:
(a) **D.C.**
(b) **Georgia**

CODE:
(a) **08**
(b) **13**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Georgia
COUNTY: Chatham
ENTRY NUMBER: 71713.0027
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Reynolds Ward, first called Lower New Ward, was the fifth to be laid out in Gen. James Edward Oglethorpe's original city plan. On the N. E. portion of Trust Lot "T", overlooking Reynolds Square and directly abutting the base wall of an adjacent hotel, the Oliver Sturges House stands today as the remaining unit of a pair of "mirror" townhouses built ca. 1812-1815 by two men... Oliver Sturges and Benjamin Burroughs, brothers-in-law and partners in a well-known Savannah merchantile firm.

The earliest view of this building is depicted by Firmin Cerveau, detail painter and watercolorist in 1837; the painting now hangs in the Georgia Historical Society. The building as it appears in that painting is a two-story brick dwelling over a 1/2 basement with gable roof. There are two arched dormer windows on the rear roof of each unit of the double pair of houses; the chimneys are connected by brick parapets. A two story octagonal bay projects from the rear of each unit and construction details indicate that these bays were added after completion of the original structure.

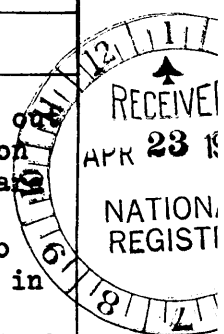
Today 27 Abercorn reflects a ca. 1850-1860 third story addition which may have been added to this unit of the pair only. (See 1871 Map of Savannah located at Historic Savannah Foundation.)

The companion unit was demolished for a hotel between 1911 and 1916.

I. Exterior: A. Main or East Facade. This three story brick structure, facing Reynolds Square, rises from a stuccoed 1/2 basement made of ballast stone and brick. Marble steps rise up to the level of a stuccoed and painted string-course between the basement and first floor. One fluted pilaster stands as the remaining support of a wooden portico that was removed by Historic Savannah Foundation in 1968 and stored inside the house...this portico being unsafe structurally. The fanlight above the 6 paneled door is framed in a brownstone architrave and flanked on either side by sidelights. Directly above the door, on the second floor level, is a Palladian window framed by a brownstone architrave similar to the front door architrave. The parlor and second floor windows have 9/9 lights. The third story 6/6. All windows have brownstone lintels and sills. B. West Facade: The rear octagonal bay is capped with what Frederick Doveton Nichols describes as a "Fine transitional type of brick cornice with dentils." C. South Facade. Adjoins hotel wall. On the rear portion of the lot is a brick and stucco carriage house. This was a retail shop in recent years. Portions of a garden wall are imbedded in the north facade of the hotel wall.

II. Interior. The entrance hall is separated from the stair hall by a columnar screen (an arch supported on paneled pilasters.) The stair to the second floor has rectangular balusters and paneled returns. To the right of the entrance hall is a drawing room with a fine wood mantelpiece with paneled pilasters, a delicate cornice with dentils, and a frieze with three wooden sunbursts. This room is separated from another on direct axis with it by an opening framed with classical columns and a fanlight with paneled folding doors. A similar division occurs between this second parlor and the octagonal addition. Each room has a chair rail and wainscoting, the octagonal room having a more refined chair rail of cable and reeded moulding and paneled wainscoting. The addition has a plaster acanthus leaf ceiling moulding.

The second floor stairhall is divided by an arch supported on engaged columns. The hall ends in a palladian window described above. Frederick Doveton Nichols writes that the Oliver Sturges house "represents the typical early 19th C. row house characteristic of all the colonies."



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

good interior

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century Site 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1736-37 site, 1813, 1964**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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/Philosophy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Inventibn <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	History
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	RECEIVED
Commerce <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	APR 23 1971
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NATIONAL REGISTER
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

I. 1733-1812: Christ Church Vestry, John Wesley
 Lot "T", Southwest trust lot of Reynolds Ward was the site set aside by the Trustees of the Colony of Georgia for the home of the minister at Savannah. A house on this site shows in the 1733 Peter Gordon Map. During the years 1736 and 1737 John Wesley, minister of the Church of England and later the founder of Methodism lived here. In 1969 the Methodists and the Citizens of Savannah erected a statue of John Wesley in the center of Reynolds Square and renovated the square at that time.

II. 1812-1911: Oliver Sturges, Benjamin Burroughs.
 Reynolds Square was the center of Colonial Government with the House of Assembly standing on the Southeast trust lot. It was in this building and square that the first and second readings on the Declaration of Independence in Savannah took place.

The Northwest trust Lot "R" was the site of the public school in 1756. About 1789 a private residence was built for James Habersham, Jr. It later became the Planter's Bank, the square then being known as "Bank Square." The house still stands today together with the Sturges House the only two remaining houses of this fashionable residential district.

The filature (house for reeling silk) was on Trust Lot "S" (North eastern one) until it burned in 1840. Cassel Row, a series of two story brick houses, was built on the lot after that. This row was demolished to make way for the building now occupied by the U. S. Army Engineers. The filature was used for public meetings, balls, and for a time by city government until the City Exchange was erected.

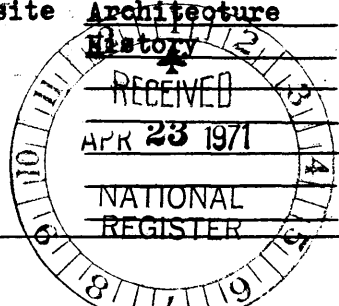
Oliver Sturges and his partner Benjamin Burroughs purchased Trust Lot "T" from Christ Church Vestry in 1812. The next year together they constructed a fine pair of Georgian townhouses overlooking the square. Burroughs and Sturges were associate cotton merchants. To quote the Historic Savannah Survey, "It was from the parlor room of the Sturges House that plans were made for the crossing of the Atlantic by the S. S. Savannah." Oliver Sturges was a substantial financial participant in this first transAtlantic steamship voyage venture in 1819.

Mr. William Harden, born in 1835 wrote in his memoirs that men of wealth, planters and bankers, prominent citizens of Savannah lived around Reynolds Square. Mr. William P. Hunter lived many years in the Sturges House, Mr. Hunter was a distinguished Savannah Banker, and next to him was Mr. Joseph Hallett Burroughs whose wife was the daughter of the Hon. John Macpherson Berrien, Attorney General of the United States, 1829-1831.

The Burroughs family maintained their half of the pair until 1911 when it was sold and subsequently torn down for a hotel. The Sturges House was a rooming house at that time. Cont.

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4
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harden, William. Recollections of a Long and Satisfactory Life. (Review Printing Co., Inc. Savannah. 1934)
 Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc. Published Survey 1968.
 Maps of Savannah, 1853, 1871, 1891. Historic Savannah Foundation collection.
 Nichols, F. D. The Early Architecture of Georgia, (U. of N. C. Press: Chapel Hill, 1957).
 Preble, Geo. Henry, A Chronological History of the Origin and Development of Steam Navigation, (Hamersly & Co., Phila. 1895.)
 Tax Assesment & Digest Books 19th C. Georgia Historical Society Collection.
 Views of Savannah, 1733, 1837. Georgia Historical Society Collection.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

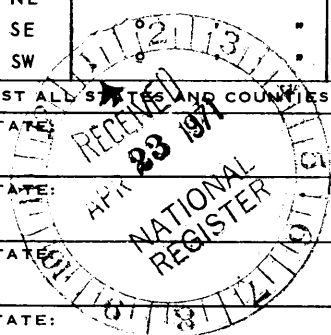
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		32° 04' 55"	81° 05' 26"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NOUTH
CX

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Gordon Grant, Secretary

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc.** DATE: **12-30-70**

STREET AND NUMBER:
119 Habersham Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Savannah** 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 Gregory Juwett

Title State Liaison Officer

Date April 19, 1971

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

Ernest A. Connerly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

JUL 14 1971

Date _____

ATTEST:

William H. Murray
 Keeper of The National Register

JUN 28 1971

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Georgia	
COUNTY Chatham	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.7.13.0027	DATE 5/14/71

(Number all entries)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1964 Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc., rescued the Sturges House from imminent demolition. The site of this house and lot is within the Savannah Historic District, a Registered National Historic Landmark, so designated by the Department of the Interior through the National Park Service.

Historic Savannah Foundation has placed legal protective covenants on the Sturges House regarding its future sale and appropriate restoration. These will insure the preservation of the integrity of the building.

The building has been open to the public during Georgia Day Celebrations for tours and was on tour for the National Trust for Historic Preservation Annual Conference held in Savannah in October, 1968.

