

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

JAN 13 1976

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

MAY 28 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 *wh*  
Gravel Hill Plantation  
AND/OR COMMON  
Gravel Hill Plantation

**2 LOCATION**

*sw of Allendale*  
STREET & NUMBER  
St. Secondary Hwy 342, off U. S. Hwy. 301  
CITY, TOWN  
Allendale  
STATE  
South Carolina  
VICINITY OF  
 VICINITY OF #1  
CODE  
045  
COUNTY  
Allendale  
CODE  
005

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
George Easterling Bryan  
STREET & NUMBER  
RFD  
CITY, TOWN  
Allendale  
STATE  
South Carolina  
VICINITY OF  
 VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Allendale County Clerk of Court's Office  
STREET & NUMBER  
Pine Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Allendale  
STATE  
South Carolina

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina  
DATE  
1973  
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
South Carolina Department of Archives and History  
CITY, TOWN  
Columbia  
STATE  
South Carolina  
FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

## 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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Gravel Hill is a two-story white frame Greek revival structure set upon a raised basement. This one-time plantation was constructed between 1857 and 1859 by Benjamin Lawton Willingham (1828-1898).

Exterior: The front facade is characterized by a gable roof and a one-story portico which is supported by four wooden square columns. Wooden balustrades both enclose and top the portico. A Cross and Bible entrance door with saw-tooth moldings features transom and sidelights. Located directly above the first floor door, on both the second story and in the gable end of the roof, similar windows repeat the moldings and sidelights. Sandstone steps lead to the front entrance way.

A balustraded piazza with five small columns extends along the east facade. A parapet is located above the side piazza along the front facade. The side door is similar to the entrance door and is enhanced by a window (with sidelights and moldings) located directly above on the second floor.

All windows (with the exception of three small windows) are 6/6. The windows along the front and east side facades, except those with sidelights and moldings, have louvered shutters. The high gable metal roof features boxed cornices and four interior brick chimneys.

A raised terrace connecting the front portico and side piazza was added ca. 1900, and the foundation was enclosed with cement ca. 1955. During the course of the years, two small wings have been added to the rear of the structure.

Interior: The interior floor plan is basically rectangular with wide central halls extending the length of the house on both floors. An equally wide side hall leading to the side piazza connects to the main floor central hallway. A stairway broken by landing and completed with hand-wrought wooden railing is located in rear. There are a total of fifteen rooms, with eight on the main floor, six on the upper floor, and one off the stairway landing. An attic is located on the third level.

Throughout the structure the walls and ceilings are made of plaster, none of which have been covered or replaced. The rear hall is separated from the central hallway by double Cross and Bible doors with sidelights and transom, similar to front and side entrance doors. The sitting room and dining room are connected by a three-paneled folding door which can be pushed back to create a large entertaining area.

A central oblong plaster medallion of grape and cherub design is located in the central hallway on the main floor. A similar medallion appears in the front parlor. Wall moldings are of similar design, and wooden mantels and woodwork are marbleized. The guest bedroom on the main floor has a deep plain plaster molding. Appearing throughout the structure are wide baseboards, mantels and moldings.

(continued)

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

SPECIFIC DATES      1857-1859, 1865                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Benjamin Willingham

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Gravel Hill, constructed between 1857 and 1859, is important not only as an example of Greek revival architecture, but also as one of the few remaining plantations of the Buddenville area (about five miles SW of present day Allendale, South Carolina). In the first half of the 19th Century Buddenville was "a region inhabited by large planters and land owners where wealth, affluence, culture and high standards of living were reflected in palatial homes and surroundings."<sup>1</sup> Gravel Hill is one of the few structures in the Buddenville area that was not destroyed in the War Between the States.

Further significance stems from the contributions of the past owners of Gravel Hill, who have been influential in community, county, and religious affairs. The original owner and builder of Gravel Hill was Benjamin Lawton Willingham (1828-1898). He resided there until after the War Between the States, at which time he gave the house to one of his daughters, Phobe Willingham Malone. In the 1880s she sold the plantation to Charles Edward Bryan, in whose family it has remained for three generations.

Architecture: Gravel Hill exemplifies the Greek revival architecture which gained prominence during the 19th Century and is one of the few structures in the Allendale area from the antebellum era.

The interior is especially notable due to the quality of detail work and its basically unaltered condition. The marbleized mantels and woodwork, plaster medallions and moldings, and walls and ceilings remain in good condition.

Politics: William Bryan, an owner of Gravel Hill, served as one of the original members of the Allendale County Board of Commissioners (1920). In the 1930s he assisted in securing the Savannah River Bridge into Georgia.

Religion: Reverend Robert J. Willingham (1854-1914), son of Benjamin Lawton Willingham, lived at Gravel Hill until after the War Between the States. He served as corresponding secretary for the Foreign Board of the Southern Baptist Convention

<sup>1</sup>Alexania Easterling Lawton and Minnie Reeves Wilson, Allendale on the Savannah (Bamberg, South Carolina: Bamberg Herald Printers, 1970), p. 164.

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Julien, Carl and Martin, Chlotilde. Sea Islands to Sand Hills. Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press, 1954.

King, Joe M. A History of South Carolina Baptists. Columbia, South Carolina: R. L. Bryan Company, 1964.

(continued)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7 acres

Latitude N 32° - 58' - 04"

UTM REFERENCES

Longitude W 81° - 23' - 18"

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Katharine McNulty, Historic Preservation Staff

(Mr. Thomas O. Lawton, Jr.)

ORGANIZATION

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

DATE

8-13-75

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 11,669, Capitol Station, 1430 Senate Street

TELEPHONE

(803) 758-5816

CITY OR TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

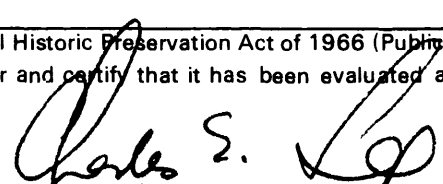
NATIONAL

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



TITLE

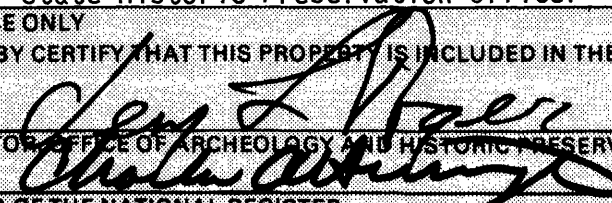
Charles E. Lee  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

12-29-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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



DATE

5/28/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

5-25-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE one

The basement originally extended the length and breadth of the structure but has been closed off with only one part remaining in use for storage purposes.

Surroundings: This one-time cotton plantation originally consisted of ca. one thousand acres, seven of which are being nominated. Included in these seven acres are a two-story frame smokehouse with hip roof, garage and well.

The orchards around the structure have been destroyed through the years, but some trees do survive. The original gardens with boxwood bordered beds and paths were replaced by lawns during the 1920s.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE two

for twenty years. "Willingham became widely known as an unusually effective speaker in behalf of missions; it was during his tenure that Southern Baptists made marked advances in the work of seminaries and publishing houses around the world."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Joe M. King, A History of Southern Baptists (Columbia, South Carolina: R. L. Bryan Company, 1964), p. 345.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE three

Lawton, Alexania Easterling and Wilson, Minnie Reeves. Allendale on the Savannah.  
Bamberg, South Carolina: Bamberg Herald Printers, 1970.

Miller, Annie Elizabeth. Our Family Circle. Marietta, Georgia: Continental  
Book Company, 1957.

Personal Interview, Thomas O. Lawton, Attorney at Law, August 5, 1975.