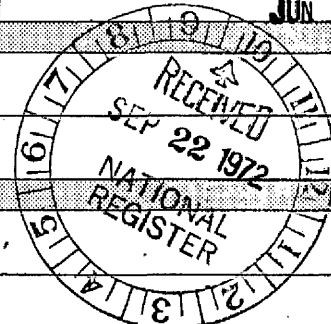


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia	
COUNTY: Spalding	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 4 1973



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Gaissert Homeplace (Mary Brook Farm)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
The Williamson Place

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *N E of Williamson on Ga.*
Williamson Road (Route One) 362

CITY OR TOWN:
Williamson *vic.*

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Spalding CODE: 255

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
George Clark Gaissert

STREET AND NUMBER:
Williamson Road (Route One)

CITY OR TOWN: Williamson STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Solomon Street

CITY OR TOWN: Griffin STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

STATE: Georgia

COUNTY: Spalding

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input 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

The Gaissert House is an example of a country house that began as a simple plantation-plain style structure and has grown with a succession of owners' fortunes. The original portion, which forms the essential core of the present house, was built in 1827. It was a four-room, central hall, shed plan with outside chimneys. The characteristic tall, narrow end facades with the outside chimneys are clearly visible as the dominant features of the side views of the house. Across the front a two-story, four-column Ionic portico of 1910 obscures this older section. In the rear, later additions built c. 1852 and remodeled more recently have replaced the original shed. The old kitchen, also c. 1852, originally a stone structure but later stuccoed, still stands a short distance behind the present kitchen wing. The green lattice beezeway which connected this structure to the house is no longer standing. On the eastern side of the house blunt Ionic half-columns support the house end of the porte-cochere which was added, along with the facade portico, in 1910. Matching columns which once supported the outer end of this covering deteriorated and have been replaced by ironwork.

Some of the original details remain inside the house. A Federal style mantel in the eastern parlor is framed by slender fluted pilasters and elaborately panelled entablature under a projecting mantel shelf. The original stairway with turned balusters and heavy newel post which originally ascended through the shed portion, has been placed at right angles to its older position in the eastern side hall. The original six-panelled front door opens into this hall from the porte-cochere. A mantel, probably dating from the 1852 remodeling, remains in the dining room in the rear of the house.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

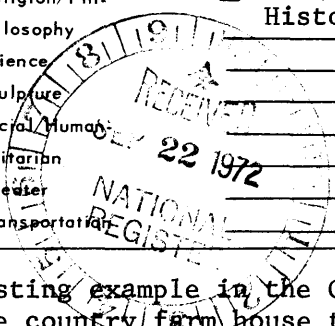
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1827, 1852, 1910

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/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>History</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Gaissert House provides an interesting example in the Griffin area of a homeplace that has grown from a simple country farm house to a more monumental structure. The original portion of the home is one of the oldest standing houses in the area. The history of the house and property goes back to 1821 when the land was ceded from the Creeks by the first Treaty of Indian Springs. The two-story portico, a form that symbolizes the plantation life of ante-bellum times, was added in the early twentieth-century classical revival period.

In part, the history of these developments can be told from the deed records. Monroe County was created out of a part of the lands ceded by the Indians in 1821. Josiah Magee drew the land, which was designated as Land Lot 43 in the second district of Monroe County in the lottery of that same year. It is presumed that Magee built the hewn log cabin which stood until recent times on the property near the main house. By 1826 when the land was deeded to Burrell Orr it was in Pike County, created in part from Monroe in 1822. Orr paid \$1000 for 1800 acres. It was for Burrell Orr, it is reported by a later owner, that the original plantation-plain style house was built in 1826-27. The house was built by Daniel Orr, who owned much property in the area, for his son. Daniel is buried in an old graveyard about two miles behind the house which, until recently, was part of the Gaissert property and belonged to the Poplar Springs Baptist Church located there in the nineteenth century. The Orrs came originally from Elbert County, where Daniel served in the militia as early as 1793 and Burrell was married to Betsey Hendrick in 1807.

In 1843 Burrell Orr's property was sold at sheriff's sale by his brother Matthew, who was the sheriff at the time. James Neal, the buyer, sold it again the following year to Ben Blanton, Jr., whose daughter Sue Blanton Veal was born there in 1844. By 1852, when Ben's administrator, William N. Blanton, sold the property to Henry Williamson, the size of the acreage was reduced to 907 acres. Henry Williamson, who made substantial changes and additions to the rear portion of the house, married Ben Blanton's widow, to whom he gave the property in 1894. Several years later, in 1899, when Anna Blanton Williamson sold the house to the Merchant's and Planter's Bank of Griffin, the holdings were reduced once more to 202½ acres. Half of this land was in Land Lot No. 43 and half in No. 44. The property was then rented out until 1906, when the present owner's grandfather, George Columbus Gaissert, bought it from the bank. It was George Gaissert who replaced an older two-story porch with the Ionic portico and added the porte-cochere in 1910. In 1940, Mrs. George Gaissert died, leaving the house to her son Francis Marion Gaissert and in 1944 the present owner, George Clark Gaissert, obtained the property from his mother's estate. The Gaisserts came to

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Deed Books, Spalding, Pike, Monroe Counties.
 Biographical files, Dept. of Archives and History, State of Georgia.
 Interview with Mr. and Mrs. George Gaissert, June 13, 1972.
 Personal Inspection and Report, Helen Powell and Jem Roberts, Emory University.
 Personal Inspection, June, 1972, Elizabeth A. Lyon.
 Wheelles, Henri Crowder, comp., "Isaac Basil Williamson," typescript, April, 1972.

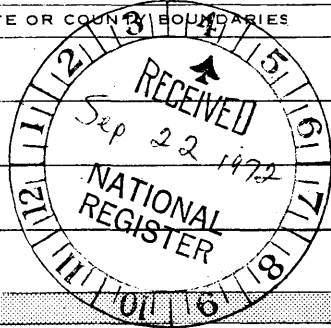
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	33 ° 12 ' 53"	84 ° 20 ' 12"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	33 ° 12 ' 53"	84 ° 19 ' 46"				
SE	33 ° 12 ' 20"	84 ° 19 ' 46"				
SW	33 ° 12 ' 20"	84 ° 20 ' 12"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **86 acres**

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



NO UTM
 C/

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Dr. Elizabeth A. Lyon, Consultant to Griffin Historical & Preservation Society

ORGANIZATION: **Emory University, Institute of Liberal Arts** DATE: **June 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
1380 South Oxford Rd., N.E.

CITY OR TOWN: **Atlanta** STATE: **Georgia** CODE: **13**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 G. Faust
 Title State Liaison Officer
 Date September 15, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert A. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/4/73

ATTEST:
S. Bradford
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date 5/30/73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Georgia	
COUNTY	
Spalding	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 4 1973

(Number all entries)

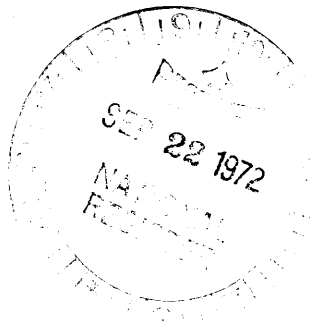
8. Significance

Spalding County from Dougherty County around the turn of the century.

Little is known about the Orr family which built the original section of the house beyond the information provided in Daniel Orr's tombstone. The father of Burrell and Matthew was a Revolutionary War soldier and a deacon in the Baptist Church.

On the other hand, Henry E. Williamson, who made substantial changes in the building, was the son of Isaac Basil Williamson, for whom the town of Williamson nearby in Pike County was named. Isaac Williamson was a pioneer farmer and settler of this town. He acquired large land holdings in the period before the Civil War and was a successful corn and grain farmer who was known for his willingness to loan money to the citizens of the area. His second son, born in 1831, was Henry Edwin, who married Benjamin Blanton's widow, Lucinda, on November 4, 1852, and moved into the older section of the present Gaissert house. In 1886, when the Georgia Midland Gulf Railway (now part of the Southern) was completed using rights-of-way donated by Henry and his son, Isaac William, in memory of Isaac Basil, the junction down the road became Williamson. At the same time the small community around Henry's home became known as Rover, a substitute for Grover, the name chosen by Henry to honor President Grover Cleveland. The railroad on which a stop and post office called Rover once operated, still passes in front of the old house. Its portico also faces the road now known as the Williamson Road, which began in the 1850's as the Plank Road. Ironically, this road was planned as an alternative to a railroad connection between Griffin and West Point but completed only as far as Flat Shoals. It was used by wagons carrying cotton and produce into the young town of Griffin.

When the Gaissert family acquired the land and made additions to the house in the early twentieth century, they continued a long tradition of farming and community responsibility. The form of their country house reflects its long succession of owners. The characteristic tall, narrow silhouette of the original plantation-plain style building is clearly visible, yet the initial impression of the facade is created by the monumental Ionic portico. This facade looks out onto the railroad and the old wagon road which the planters used to bring their produce to market either in Griffin or westward through Williamson. The form of the house with its functional and symbolic additions together with its location, reflects the history of Griffin and the surrounding countryside.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Georgia	
COUNTY Spalding	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 4 1973

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Old Gaissert Homeplace (Mary Brook Farm)
AND/OR HISTORIC: The Williamson Place

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Williamson Road (Route One)

CITY OR TOWN:

Williamson

STATE:

Georgia

CODE

13

COUNTY:

Spalding

CODE

255

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

Soil Conservation Aerial Photograph

SCALE:

see map

DATE:

unknown

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

