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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

8th Congressional District Williamson S. Stuckey

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STATE:	
Georgia	
COUNTY:	
Glynn	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Y
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE /
11.9.13.0039	9/28/

(Type all ent	ies – complete	applicable sections)	71.	1.13.00	399	1/2XF
NAME						,
COMMON:						
Hort	on-duBignon	House, Brewery F	Ruins, du	Bignon Ceme	etery	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	<u>- Σ,</u>					
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7.	DESCRIPTION								
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CONDITION		(Check O	ne)			(Che	eck One)		
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At the intersection of Riverview Drive and Major Horton Road stand the remains of the Horton-DuBignon House built by Major William Horton (c.1736) and later the residence of the DuBignon family.

The surviving two-story oblong shell is of tabby, a once popular building material of the coastal area composed of equal parts of sand, lime, oyster shell and water mixed into a mortar and poured into forms. It is presumed that the surviving structure dates largely from Horton's period although we know that during the DuBignon ownership additions were made to the house.

Across the north facade are two parallel rows of vertically accented windows, five above and four below with a center doorway. The south facade consists of two parallel rows of windows, four above and below separated by center doorways on each floor. The end walls of the building are windowless with the interiors displaying the remains of fireplaces. The roof and upper floor have disappeared.

The Jekyll Island Club braced the uppermost story with steel rods and added brick-concrete wall sections.

Just east of the house, across Riverview Drive, lies the small DuBignon Burial Ground. A few nineteenth century tombs are marked with engraved tablets and are protected by a low stucco covered brick wall erected by the Jekyll Island Club.

Several hundred feet southeast of the house on the banks of DuBignon Creek, large sections of crumbling tabby still stand marking the site, and are the remains, of Georgia's first brewery.

Together, the three sites on either side of Riverview Drive constitute a district marking the remains of the pre-Jekyll Island Club era.



SIGNIFICANCE					
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Horton-duBignon House, the old brewery ruins and the duBignon cemetery land in the 1730's formed the nucleus of an English outpost on Jekyll Island, one of Georgia's Golden Isles. At that time the Golden Isles constituted a buffer zone between the English to the north and the Spanish to the south. In 1736 General James Edward Oglethorpe, commander of Georgia's military forces, established a base of operations at Fort Frederica on nearby Saint Simons Island and directed Major William Horton to maintain an outpost on Jekyll.

Horton, the first English resident of Jekyll, built a two-story tabby structure, the shell of which stills stands, as his dwelling house and military headquarters. The vast fields were cleared and planted with rye, barley and hops giving the area the name "Rye Patch." These crops were used in the manufacture of beer, the only alcoholic beverage allowed in the Georgia colony. Horton's tabby brewery, the first in Georgia, was built several hundred feet from his house and supplied the soldiers on Saint Simons. In 1742 after the Battle of Bloody Marsh on Saint Simons, Horton's house was burned by the retreating Spanish. Afterwards only a small group of English soldiers were stationed on the island. Major Horton succeeded Oglethorpe as commander of military forces in the colony upon the General's final return to England in 1743. Horton died in Savannah in 1748.

From 1791 to 1886 Jekyll Island was owned by the duBignon family, fugitives from the French Revolution. The original owner, Le Sieur Christophe Poulain de la Houssaye duBignon, repaired the tabby Horton house adding wooden wings and made it his home. The old fields were turned to the cultivation of indigo and Sea Island cotton. Upon his death in 1814 duBignon was buried at a now unknown spot near duBignon Creek. Generations of his family were buried in the duBignon cemetery overlooking the creek and across from the Horton-duBignon House. During the Civil War, the tabby house and several later duBignon houses were destroyed, as was the plantation economy.

Members of the Jekyll Island Club who purchased the island in 1888 grew interested in the island's history and reinforced the ruins of the old tabby house. They also built a wall around the cemetery where they buried two sailors drowned at sea on March 21, 1912. In 1947 the state purchased the entire island and placed its administration under the Jekyll Island State Park Authority, guaranteeing its conservation and preservation.

The shell of the Horton-duBignon House, the ruins of the old brewery and the small duBignon cemetery stand in marked contrast to the fabulous Jekyll Island Club complex only a short distance away. Yet the contrast marks well the different phases of Jekyll's history - from the simple 18th century military outpost, to the 19th century cotton plantation, to the 20th

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	Files and Research, Georgia Historical Commission. Fish, Tallu, Once Upon An Island. Gibson, Dorothy R., "Jekyll Island's Historical Heritage." Sewell, Cliff, "Making a Future for the Past," Savannah News-Press Magazine,												
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¹Form 10-301 (July 1969)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

STATE	
Georgia	
COUNTY	
Glynn	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Y
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map) I. NAME Horton-duBignon House; Brewery Ruins; duBignon Cemetery COMMON: AND/OR HISTORIC: 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: Riverview Drive CITY OR TOWN: Jekyll Island STATE: COUNTY: CODE CODE 127 Glynn <u>Georgia</u> MAP REFERENCE SOURCE: Portion of map of Jekyll Island State Park by Larry SCALE: 1" = 1,000'April 1958 DATE: 4. REQUIREMENTS TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS 1. Property broundaries where required. 2. North arrow. 3. Latitude and longitude reference.