

PH0012971

10th Congressional District
Robert G. Stephens, Jr.

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

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:	Morgan	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	JAN 20 1972	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Bonar Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Dixie Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Georgia	13	Morgan	211

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"/> 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 <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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 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:
Miss Therese Newton

STREET AND NUMBER:
Bonar Hall, Dixie Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison

STATE:	CODE
Georgia	13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison

STATE:	CODE
Georgia	13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

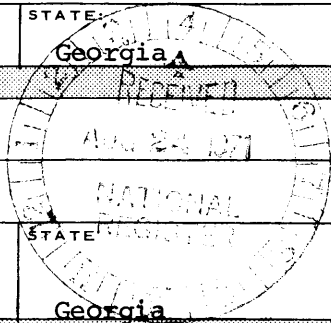
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:	Georgia
COUNTY:	Morgan
ENTRY NUMBER	JAN 20 1972
DATE	1972
FOR NPS USE ONLY	

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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Bonar Hall, looking today much as it has since it was remodeled in the 1880's, is a two-story, brick residence in the late-Georgian style. The large garden with its years of growth is as important as the house and original outbuildings. The main house is a cube placed upon the center of a central axis with outbuildings (kitchen, pergola, orangery, privies) radiating from that axis to form a square with the orangery and pergola flanking the house and the kitchen in the immediate rear. The boxwood garden and towering specimen trees lie to the left of the lawn.

According to the date on the gutter-head, the house was built in 1832. The present day facade has, rather than its original Doric portico, a lacy white two-storied Victorian veranda, repeated in a single story at the side. This porch was added in the 1880's and at that time the parapet balustrade which ran along the roof edge was removed and a porch doorway was opened on the upper level, eliminating the center windows. The exterior is of plantation-made red brick with traces of the original mortar penciling. The twin chimneys in the gable ends are reminiscent of Independence Hall. A ~~transcept~~ ^{transom} and side lights frame the front doorway which is severely Greek Revival.

The interior is also in this planar Greek style. An academic plan with two rooms on each side of a central hallway running from front to rear is on both floors. Silver-plated hardware enriches the otherwise rather austere interiors, particularly the woodwork which is Asher Benjamin at his simplest. Several pieces of furniture and various heirlooms still survive from the original furnishings, some of which are placed as they have been for 70 years or more.

The house with accompanying structures set in a formalized garden-scape is a picture of classical symmetry. Plans are presently underway to remove the Victorian verandas and reconstruct the original Doric portico and balustraded parapet above the cornice line. Good photographs of Bonar Hall prior to the Victorian remodeling fortunately survive.

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) 1832, c. 1880's

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 | History |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input 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 | _____ |

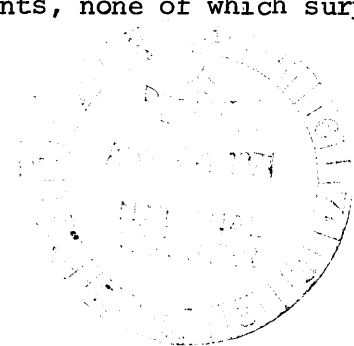
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bonar Hall is an important survivor of Georgia plantation life. When built in 1832 by John Byne Walker it was a nucleus for his vast Morgan County cotton plantation; today the estate has been reduced to 100 acres and serves as a private residence on the outskirts of Madison. The beautiful landscaping developed by the original owners is one of the few surviving mid-19th century gardens in the state.

Walker built the brick Georgian style manor house for his bride Elizabeth S. Fannin in 1832. Remaining in the Walker family until 1880, Bonar Hall was then purchased by John A. Broughton. It was during this ownership that the Victorian verandas replaced the original Doric portico. Bonar Hall changed hands several more times before 1920 when it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Bacon and returned to one branch of the original family. Miss Therese Newton, Mrs. Bacon's daughter, presently owns the home and plans to restore it to its original appearance.

One of Bonar Hall's most outstanding features is its boxwood garden. Planted by Eliza Fannin Walker over the objections of her husband, John Byne Walker, the formal garden and orchards contained rare shrubs, flowers and trees many of which survive from that original planting. Among the more unusual are the cork oaks, mock oranges, yews and several varieties of magnolias. Fragrant cedars, catalpa trees, quinces and quincydonias are also found. A once flourishing water garden has since disappeared. It is believed that Walker engaged an English landscape architect to lay out the final plan of the garden. An extensive list of the original surviving plantings, published in The Garden History of Georgia, illustrates the importance of Bonar Hall's gardens to the state. Standing on the old Sandtown Road, it is an important architectural landmark in a town with many such monuments, none of which surpass Bonar Hall in significance.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cooney, Loraine M., compiler, The Garden History of Georgia, 1733-1933.
 (Atlanta: Peachtree Garden Club, 1933).
 Mitchell, William R., Jr., Personal Inspection, July 1971.
 Newton, Miss Therese, Chain of Title and Family History.
 Parker, Inez E., "Madison House of History and Romance," The Atlanta Journal, November 18, 1923.
 Perkerson, Medora Field, White Columns in Georgia. (New York: Rinehart and Company, Inc., 1952).

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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	33°	35'	11"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	83°	28'	54"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

NO UTM
 CX

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 10 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

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: William R. Mitchell, Jr., Director, Georgia Historic Sites Survey
Nancy O'Hare

ORGANIZATION: Georgia Historical Commission DATE: August 20, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 116 Mitchell St., S.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta 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 Jurell

Title State Liaison Officer

Date August 20, 1971

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

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

JAN 20 1972

Date _____

ATTEST:

M. Bradford
 Keeper of The National Register

Date January 14, 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS