

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia
COUNTY: Clay
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 6 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Dill House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
102 South Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Fort Gaines

STATE:
Georgia

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
2nd - Dawson-~~Mathis~~

CODE: **13** COUNTY: **Clay** CODE: **06**



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Ruth Tante

STREET AND NUMBER:
102 South Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Fort Gaines

STATE:
Georgia

CODE: **13**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Fort Gaines

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:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Georgia
COUNTY: Clay
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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 Dill House in Fort Gaines, Georgia, was built c.1830, by General John Dill. In the 1890's, Mrs. S. R. Raymur bought the house, remodelled it in the Victorian style, and added a number of rooms. It has served as a hotel ever since that time.

The Dill House has a 3-bayed, double verandah supported by four square columns that have been replaced by circular concrete posts. The balusters are of Victorian design and part of the second floor verandah has collapsed. The three bays have corresponding gables, two large gables with gingerbread detail separated by a smaller gable with carved designs. The exterior is weather-boarded and has been painted white.

The front door is trabeated and opens on to a long, wide central hall. Thin floor boards run diagonally down the hall and in the middle of the hall is a carved Victorian decoration of spools, spandrels and medallion variations hanging from the ceiling. On both sides of the central hall are thin boards of heavily varnished wainscotting. A narrow Victorian staircase leads to a second floor landing and there are three more stairs from the landing to the second floor central hall.

Due to the Victorian alterations in the 1890's, it is not easy to determine exactly which rooms were part of the house built by General Dill, but it appears that each of the rooms off of the downstairs central hall, with the exception of the dining room, and one room on either side of the second floor stair landing are the earliest portions of the house. Each of these "original" rooms has a simple wide floor board and plain frames around the windows and doors. Between the first and second rooms on the right side of the first floor are four tall panelled doors that connect the two rooms. The front room has an early mantelpiece that appears to have been done by a local craftsman. It consists of a three part frieze with a sunburst in the center and the mantel shelf is supported by engaged columns. The front room on the left side of the house is one of the original rooms, but thin boards of heavily varnished wainscotting (like the central hall wainscotting) have been added that belong to the 20th century. On the second floor, the front rooms on either side of the landing were part of the original house. Each room has simple panelled wainscotting, painted white, that matches the heavily varnished wainscotting on the stair landing. Early mantelpieces of a simplified Adamesque variation with three part panelled friezes and engaged columns are in both of these rooms.

Above the stair landing, there are eight more rooms off of the central hall that were part of the hotel addition. All these rooms are identical in their decoration including window and door frames with carved, circular designs, transom lights over the door, and Victorian mantel pieces. Similar to these rooms is the dining room downstairs at the left end of the central hall. Carved flower designs in its door and window frames and intricately carved vine and leaf patterns in the thin boards of wainscotting make the dining room the most detailed room in the house. The floor boards are identical to the diagonal pattern of the central hall. Several more rooms extend beyond the dining room but these are shed-types and even later additions.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

5. 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)

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 | <u>local history</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input 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

The house of General John Dill is significant because it is one of the oldest remaining houses in the pioneer settlement of Fort Gaines. Not only was General Dill a prominent citizen and original settler of Fort Gaines, but several legends about him have passed down to the present day and are important to the local "history" of Fort Gaines.

Dill came to Georgia in 1817 as a military aide to General Edmund P. Gaines. General Gaines placed him in command of Fort Gaines, a stronghold on the Georgia bank of the Chattahoochee River designed to protect the river and hold the Indians at bay in west Florida and south Alabama. After the cession of Indian lands in 1826 Fort Gaines was no longer needed as a military outpost and General Dill retired from active service. He then became one of the first merchants in Fort Gaines, along with his partner John W. Sutlive, by establishing a mercantile store. A tannery, brick kiln and yard, and cotton warehouses were later added to Dill's business interests. Dill was a member of the first grand jury in Early County, and served as Justice of the Inferior Court from 1829 until his resignation in 1832. The Georgia legislature elected General Dill the Brigadier General of the Militia and for several years Dill was an aide to Governor Lumpkin. General Dill was also active in the Methodist Church which was organized in Fort Gaines in 1822. Services were held at General Dill's house "for years" but it is not certain if this is the same house because the site of the present Dill house was not purchased until 1829 by Dill and his partner Sutlive.

There are several long standing legends about General Dill and his house, both concerning Indians. Dill's wife was captured by the Indians as a young girl and protected by the Indian Chief because she was so beautiful. When the Indians raided white settlements the girl hoarded the paper money in her skirt that the Indians discarded in favor of pieces of gold. When she finally escaped to Fort Gaines, she married General Dill and they built a fine home with all the money she had saved. The truth of this legend can be found in Woodward's Reminiscences, Woodward being the man who rescued Dill's wife from the Indians. In reality the lady had been on an Army supply boat that was ambushed by the Indians, and she remained a captive for four months. Another legend about General Dill had to do with the Indians' great belief in dreams. They believed that if a person dreamed another gave him a gift, the dream-giver had to make good on the gift or be in serious trouble with the dream gods. General Dill owned a very handsome saddle made by a slave that caught the fancy of an Indian chief. He promptly dreamed that General Dill gave him the saddle and related the vision to the General, so

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(continued)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brown, Mrs. B. C., personal files
 Cook, Jody, personal inspection, November 13, 1974
 The News Record
 Perry, Joel W., compiled, Some Pioneer History of Early County 1818-1871.
 Woodward, Thomas S., Woodward's Reminiscences of the Creek, or Muscogee Indians. Barrett and Wimbisu, Montgomery, Alabama, 1859.

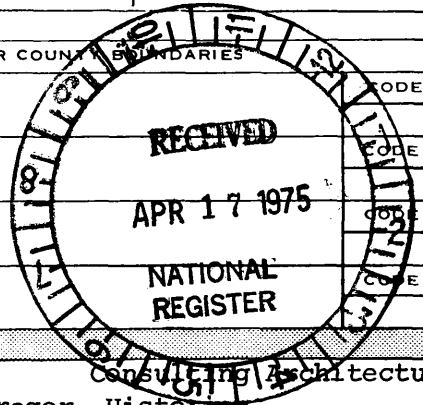
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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 TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	SEE CONTINUATION SHEET			° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/4 acre

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Jody Cook, Intern, Historic Sites Survey (E. Macgregor, Historian)

ORGANIZATION: Historic Preservation Section, Dept. Natural Resources DATE: November, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
270 Washington Street, S.W., Room 703-C10

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Jackson O'Neal Lamb</u> Title: <u>State Historic Preservation Officer</u> Date: <u>April 7, 1975</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>5/6/75</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>5.1.75</u></p>
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Georgia	
COUNTY	Clay	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	MAY 6	1975
DATE		

(Number all entries)

7. Description - page 2

It is hard to visualize what the Dill House must have looked like originally because of its alterations. The central hall ceiling has been lowered by white plaster boards held up by heavily varnished beams. A great deal of the house is beginning to decay badly; the roof leaks in the back part of the house and floorboards appear weak, and, as already stated, the left half of the second floor verandah has collapsed.

8. Significance - page 2

the saddle was given to the Indian. Sometime later, General Dill dreamed that a fine tract of land that he wanted, owned by the Indian Chief, was given to him. When the Indian heard of the dream he gave the land to Dill saying "Me dream no more. White men dream too big."

As questionable as these legends may seem, they are still generally believed by local residents and play an important part in the local "history" of Fort Gaines. Because of its early date and the importance that the Fort Gaines community places on the Dill House, it is worthy of nomination to the National Register.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM: 16/685170/3498260
140

