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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Architects agree that Milford, built in 1839, is purest Greek Revival. The facade has six magnificent carved columns on granite bases which support a classic portico with a parapet adorned with a Greek motif. The capitals are copies from the Choragic momument in Athens, erected to honor Lysicrates for his victory in a musical contest, and this same Greek motif is carried out in wood, marble, plaster, bronze and glass in all the decorations of the house, both in the exterior and interior. In the exterior wall on each side a niche contains a small classical statue. Although set in solitary splendor in the High Hills of the Santee surrounded by woods, with a wide lawn sloping toward Tavern Creek other Plantations were actually nearby, including Hawthorne Hill and Cedarhurst, both belonging to the Richardson family.

The walls of Milford, two feet thick, are of handmade brick burned on the place, but the granite came by boat from Rhode Island, and much of the marble as well as the carving and ornamentation came from abroad.

The entrance is unique, having Greek ornamentation over the entablature which is supported by a classic column and pilaster on either side of the doors.

At the rear through curved mahogany doors one enters the rotunda, separated from the main hall by massive double doors and side lights. It rises to the roof culminating in an art-glass eye, framed by elaborate carving. There, in a setting built for it, is the imposing, unsupported, flying, circular stair.

The interior plan is typical of most Southern Colonial homes having a spacious center hall extending the entire depth of the house, flanked by front and rear parlors on one side and a library and dining room on the other. The end of the dining room is curved where the china and silver closets are located on either side of the door to the library, each with a curved mahogany door and curved interior shelving. On the first two floors ceiling heights are fifteen feet and nine feet on the third floor.

In the parlors entire walls are covered by gold framed mirrors and between the two are movable, mirror-lined walls which, when folded back, make a ballroom, the only separation then being four supporting columns topped by the usual Greek capitals. Here on the mantles you can see the motif in marble. On the east side of the house the mantles are all white marble and on the west, black. The solid but panelled blinds occur throughout the house except on the third floor where the windows resemble portholes with a carved wreath on the outside.

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Symbolic of the rural community life which flourished before the Civil War, Milford represents the highest development of all forms of plantation activity, social, political and, with St. Mark's Episcopal Church only a mile away, religious also. Having had the unusual good fortune to escape being burned by Sherman's troops, it remains a museum piece of the traditional antebellum south.

The Mannings, who were the original builders, contributed many Governors to the State of South Carolina and were leaders in politics and society in that area.

Architecturally it is unique in the South and when the Governor built it earned the title of "Manning's Folly" since its location was so remote and the details so elaborate.

The State of South Carolina is fortunate that such a perfect example of historic and architectural value has been preserved to the present day.

Milford was the outstanding plantation home in the area when shortstaple cotton reached its apogee in South Carolina. The home and the acreage exemplify this era when cotton was king better than any other in the state. According to Columbia Architect G. Thomas Harmon, Milford is the loveliest house in South Carolina. Walter Petty, FAIA, values it as probably the outstanding Greek Revival plantation home in the South.

The Manning family owned Milford until 1903, when it was purchased by Mary Clark Thompson. Inheriting the estate from her was her nephew, Emory W. Clark. His heir was his son, W. E. Reeve Clark, the present owner.



| 9. MAJOR | BIBLIO | GRAPH | ICAL RE | FERENC | ES | | | | | | | | | |
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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(Number all entries)

7. Description: Milford Plantation

Modern features for the period were central heating, running water and two passageways at the rear connecting with kitchen on one side and the laundry on the other with servants' rooms over each.

Of the remaining dependencies the water tower and Spring House are on a scale with the mansion, the latter a replica of part of Trinity Church in Columbia. The stable still standing is tremendous, containing 26 standing stalls, carriage room, and tack room behind its elaborate columns.

Few changes have been made in the original design and these consist of a powder room in the rotunda under the stairs, a pantry between the dining room and the passageway to the kitchen, and an additional bath room on the second floor.



Form 10-300a (Dec. 1968) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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| FOR NPS USE C | NLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE | |
| 11.11.45.0069 | 11/19/ | 71 |

(Number all entries)

Milford Plantation 8. Significance (continued):

> Milford is the main house on a plantation tract of 4,251 acres. From the total acreage, the 712 acres surrounding the house are included in this nomination as an example of a plantation and timberland area (such large land holdings in a family ownership are increasingly rare in South Carolina) and also as a buffer to protect Milford against all possible encroachments. The 712 acres selected effectively protect the house area and also represent the nucleus of the plantation. Please see timber map enclosed as supplementary information to indicate the scope of the entire plantation.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 71000808

Date Listed: 11/19/71

Millford Plantation Property Name <u>Sumter</u> County <u>SC</u> State

<u>N/A</u> Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

hud

11-20-96

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 1: Name

According to archival evidence (a letter dated March 17, 1865 from Governor John L. Manning, historic owner of the property), the correct spelling of the name of the property is Millford Plantation (two Ls instead of one as in the original nomination).

The name is revised to read Millford Plantation.

This information was confirmed by a copy of the attached letter. Dan Elswick at the South Carolina SHPO concurred with the change on November 18, 1996.

DISTRIBUTION: National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

Millford 17. Manh 1865 a thousand thraks My dear Colonel for your priendly interest in The houses which your addested to rescue from the energy when my hother was captioned with all of our working Stock. With the exception of these and a four blind house, bome hood man, Hen Beaugards Statting we have atting To depend signer for making head, but These I now send for , and a few hunley loaned as An this food by refugeed. I send up aseas & Billy to filed back the buy hade, I the black many with the carriage and baggage wagon, if by good but they may that have been left in for possession . Should these he' any change against These by pressions who you may have supply ? to a first you in survey them, be pleased & because, and for your non this helps in the matter receiver grateful acknowledgents. With Kind regards To Mischarfuland I you household believe me og hufgat John S. Mannur to lot allow all cufallane -