

PH 0504289

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 20 1977
DATE ENTERED MAR 21 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Thalian Hall

AND/OR COMMON

Same

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Allen Memorial Drive, at intersection of Ivey Drive

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Midway (near Milledgeville)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

8th - Williamson S. Stuckey

STATE

Georgia

CODE

13

COUNTY

Baldwin

CODE

009

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Rubin H. Cook Estate
Emory S. Cook, Jr. Executor

STREET & NUMBER

1585 Erwinton Road

CITY, TOWN

Milledgeville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baldwin County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Milledgeville

STATE

Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Baldwin County Survey by W. G. Moffat

DATE

1976 (1)

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Section

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Thalian Hall is a three story, red brick structure with gable roof. It is 82' long by 48' wide. The first and second stories were originally each divided into eight rooms for dormitory space for the Thilians. The third story was one long hall and used by the Society for its meetings and social affairs. (College Life at Old Oglethorpe, by Allen P. Tankersley, Univ. of Ga. Press, Athens, 1951.) From looking at the building today it appears that the rooms were arranged along a long interior hall, four corner rooms with corner fireplaces and four small rooms, two on each side of the hall, with one fireplace each. Sidney Lanier reputedly had a corner room on the second floor.

The principal facade of Thalian Hall faces east. A wooden one story porch with a pedimented central portico extends the entire length of the front facade. It is ornamented with thin, paired wood columns and gingerbread sawn work along the eaves of the porch. There is a wood railing with square ballusters. The structure is entered on the center line of the front facade through a door which is surrounded by sidelights and rectangular transom with 5 lights. A pair of windows are situated on each side of the door, The windows on the second and third floors are placed directly on line with the windows and door of the first story. They are spaced in a rhythm of 1-3-1 to allow space for two interior chimneys to run between the two outer windows the full three stories. The windows have 6/6 lights, and are not arched. A row of brick dentil trim runs around the building at the eave line.

The north and south elevations present the pedimented gable end of the roof. The Victorian porch wraps around the south end of the building and there is another pedimented portico at the entrance to the South end. The rear facade resembles the front facade, minus the porch. There is a small, one story, one room brick addition located midway on this facade.

Upon entering through the main door one is in a small foyer with a fireplace enframed by a wooden, battered Greek Ear mantel. From this room one steps into a long hall along which on both sides are doors to rooms. The researcher was not allowed access to these rooms on the first floor. Stepping across the hall, opposite the foyer through double doors is the stairway. There is an exit out the rear from this stairwell at the first story level.

The second floor also has a long hall running the length of the building into which open the doors of the dormitory rooms. The rooms inspected had simple pine mantels, a horizontal jamb supported by two rectangular vertical jambs. Some of the doors on this floor were the 8 panel type like those found at Rockwell House built by Joseph Lane, Sr. It is likely that these are the original doors of Thalian Hall, though several have been replaced by late Victorian style doors.

The third floor as it appears today is also divided into rooms, though along a wide hall. This central hall is ornamented with a plaster medallion at one end. (As the minutes mention two candle chandeliers there were probably two medallions at one time). The window enframements are of the Greek Ear type, battered, with a panel beneath the window. The wood mantels on the third floor are battered with Greek Ears. If Tankersley is correct then it appears that rooms have been added to this story at a later date. It can be seen that this was once a very elegant meeting space, however today weather and pigeons have taken their toll.

(Continued)

§ SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1859-1860

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Joseph Lane, Jr.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Thalian Hall was built in 1859-60 by Joseph Lane, Jr. as a dormitory and meeting hall for the Thalian Society at Oglethorpe University. The significance of Thalian Hall is historical as well as architectural. It is the last remaining building at old Oglethorpe University, and was the dormitory for Sidney Lanier during his student years at Oglethorpe.

Oglethorpe University was incorporated in 1835 and opened its doors for students on the first Monday in January, 1838. It was a small, but well known facility situated in Midway, near Milledgeville. In 1839, a group of students at Oglethorpe met to organize a secret society for the promotion of "oratory, declamation, debating and other literary pursuits." They named their organization Thalia in honor of the Father of Philosophy. Later, when the Thalian Society decided to build a new hall they turned to Joseph Lane, Jr., son of the Joseph Lane who had built the Greek Revival Central Hall of the University in 1838. The elder Lane had died in 1842.

The minutes of the Thalian Society record the construction history of Thalian Hall. (The minute book is in the Library at Georgia College, however the transcription below comes from Sidney Lanier at Oglethorpe University by Leola Selman Beeson.

"At a meeting of the Society, on June 11, 1859, 'Mr. Little moved that we suspend the Constitution and ballot for a Building Committee, and Ditmars, Thomas and Weems, were chosen.'

"On October 8, 1859, Mr. Knox reported to the Society 'that he had raised \$15.00 from honorary members, for the purpose of aiding in the building of the new hall.'

"On February 25, 1860, it is recorded, 'On motion, Mr. Varnadoe was elected on the building committee in lieu of absence of Mr. Thomas.'

"On March 10, 1860, 'On motion of Mr. Cater, a committee was appointed to consult with the faculty about our New Hall made in a form suitable to the will of the Society, on condition that we pay the excess in expenditure.'

"On March 28, 1860, at a called meeting of the Society, 'Mr. Cater read letters from the Building Committee, stating that our New Hall would be built according to our wishes, provided we pay the overplus aside from the \$1500.00 as already subscribed.'

"On Mr. Cater's motion, 'it was resolved to ascertain through the building committee, what amount would be required, and if it did not exceed \$300., that we have it done,' which was carried. At a later meeting, it was decided 'that we do not have the windows of our New Hall arched.'

"On June 26, 1860, Mr. Cater was appointed 'to confer with the Phi Delta Society as to the construction of the New Hall,' and he, and Ward, and Mr. S. Lanier were named to the committee.'

"On April 21, 1860, 'By motion of Mr. Quarterman it was agreed that we do not have our New Hall built as high as was first anticipated, by two feet.' Mr. Cater moved 'that we do not have a wall partition built between our Hall library.' Mr.

F (Continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Minutes of the Thalian Society, June 1858- June 1863 with the addition of someone's private expense record dated 1879-1883. Georgia College Library, Milledgeville, Ga.

Beeson, Leola Selman, Sidney Lanier at Oglethorpe University, Macon: The J. W. Burke Co. 1936.

Allen, Sarah Whitaker, Old Oglethorpe University, Unpublished Manuscript, Georgia College Library, Milledgeville. No date.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 3

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 7	2, 9, 0	3, 6	5, 9	4, 7, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C						D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Dr. Elizabeth A. Lyon
Beth Lattimore Reiter, Historic Preservation Planner, Savannah, Georgia

ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources DATE December, 1976

STREET & NUMBER 270 Washington Street, S.W. Room 701 TELEPHONE 404-656-2840

CITY OR TOWN Atlanta STATE Georgia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Elizabeth P. Lyon
 TITLE Dr. Elizabeth A. Lyon DATE 9/5/77
Acting Chief, Historic Preservation Section

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: <u>W. M. ...</u>	DATE <u>3-21-78</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>3-10-78</u>

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CONTINUATION SHEET Physical

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Reference is made in the Minutes of the Thalian Society to "Arching the New Hall" and it was finally agreed that they would...As the ceiling on the third story is not coved today either this has been altered, or perhaps the Thaliens wererereferring to the shape of the roofline, which does have a pedimented gable.

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Flournoy moved 'that we do not get Mr. J. Lane to arch our Hall, which was carried,' and the committee was ordered to inform Mr. Lane of the Society's decision.

"At a meeting on May 21, 1860, Mr. Cater stated 'that Mr. Lane had agreed to arch our Hall for \$100.00,' and made the motion, 'that the Society get him to arch it,' which was carried.

"On May 26, 1860, Mr. Cater reported ' that Mr. J. Lane said he could not arch the Hall for less than \$125.00,' and it was voted to limit him to that amount. Mr. Cater was named as one of a committee of three, 'to inform the Building Committee that the Society will give them the money when they give us the Hall finished,' which was carried.

"A committee with Mr. Cater, Chairman, was appointed 'to consult with the Phi Deltas as to the proper time the Societies will pay the \$1500.00 pledged by them.'

"On June 30, 1860, Mr. Cater read to the Society a joint report from the Phi Delta and Thalian Committees, which was as follows: 'Believing that the contract with the Faculty concerning the New Halls, was to the effect that for the sum of \$1500.00 each, they the Faculty, were to deliver into our hands the Halls in a finished condition, Therefore we, the Phi Delta and Thalian Societies, mutually pledge each other that we will not receive the halls when offered to us, unless they are in a finished condition.

" ' But should the Faculty offer them to us in a finished state, we will each come up to our part of the contract, by paying the specified sum, upon receiving from the Faculty, along with the Halls, a written contract that the Halls are to be our own exclusive property. We only pledge ourselves that they shall never be used for purposes inconsistent with the objects and aims of the Societies to which they shall belong.'

"At a meeting on July 14, 1860, Mr. Cater stated 'that Mr. Smith told him that unless our Society paid the Building Committee the sum of \$1500.00, they (The Committee) would offer our Hall to the Phi Delta Society, and if they did not take it, it would be made into dormitories.'

Mr. Knox moved 'that the same Committee inform the Phi Delta Society that we will stand up to the agreement.'

"On October 6, 1860, Mr. Cater moved 'to appoint a committee to plaster the New Hall,' and he was one of the committee named.

"On October 23, 1860, at a called meeting, the Treasurer was requested 'to pay Mr. Lane for arching the New Hall and repairing the old Hall.'

"On November 10, 1860, 'Mr. Varnadoe moved, at the request of Mr. Cater, first, that a committee of three be appointed to have a rostrum erected and library shelves and railing ordered for the New Hall. Committee: J. Varnadoe, Lanier, and Weems. Second, a committee of three to have the hall painted, to write on to Macon or elsewhere to contract for curtains and carpet. Committee: James Lane, Dean and C. Varnadoe. Third, Committee of three to write on to Hall Black and Company to contract for two chandeliers and that these committees be

(Continued)

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subordinate to the building committee. Committee: Mr. Goetchius, Fulton, and Gresham.'

"The new Hall could have been completed in December, 1860, but the minutes of December 15, declared that the 'Society met at the usual time and place.'

"On January 12, 1861, the minutes began, 'Society assembled at the ringing of the bell,' which is the first of three meetings so designated. It may be that on this date, the Society met for the first time in the new Hall."

In 1890, Thalian Hall was purchased by Dr. Henry Dawson Allen, who opened a private Sanitarium in this building for the care and treatment of persons suffering with mental and nervous diseases. Today the building stands empty with the exception of one elderly lady who rents a room on the first floor.

MIDWAY: (From College Life at Old Oglethorpe by Allen P. Tankersley) "The Village of Midway, so called on account of its location halfway between Scottsboro and Milledgeville, was an educational center before Oglethorpe University was established. Midway Female Seminary, located where the Midway High School now stands, was a noted school for girls. There was also a school for boys, taught by Mr. R. H. Ramsey, in Midway. A number of planters built homes for their families in the village in order that their children might have the educational advantages. The establishment of Oglethorpe University brought many other citizens to Midway for the same purposes, and the number of inhabitants was increased by the teachers of the University making their homes in the village."

SIDNEY LANIER who as we see from the Minutes of the Thalian Society was a member of that Society and on some of the committees dealing with the construction of Thalian Hall. The following is a sketch taken from Cook's History of Baldwin County. "Sidney Lanier, Georgia's distinguished poet, was a graduate of Oglethorpe University. At fourteen he entered the Sophomore class and graduated in 1860, after four years of college life, sharing first honors with Robert G. Bayne.

"He was born in Macon, Georgia, February 3, 1842. His father, a quiet gentleman of great culture, a lawyer by profession, was Robert Simpson Lanier; his mother, Mary Jane Anderson, a Virginian of Scotch descent, a gentle, dignified woman, caring little for social life and thoroughly interested in the religious training of her children.

"While yet a boy, he played the flute, violin, guitar, banjo, organ and piano, though the flute and violin were his favorite instruments."

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Thalian Hall, Midway (near Milledgeville), Baldwin County

Photographs by: David J. Kaminsky

Date: October, 1976

Negatives filed at: Department of Natural Resources

1. Main facade, looking west.
2. Portico, east facade.
3. South elevation
4. West (rear facade)
5. Looking southwest, detail of door.
6. Mantel, entrance foyer, looking south.
7. Stairwell, looking southeast.
8. Second floor student room
9. Third floor, looking south.
10. Third floor fireplace, looking south.