Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 13 1976
DATE ENTERED MAY 28 1976

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

1 NAME

** HISTORIC
Gravel Hill Plantation

AND/OR COMMON
Gravel Hill Plantation

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
St. Secondary Hwy 342, off U. S. Hwy. 301 — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Allendale — X VICINITY OF — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT #1

STATE
South Carolina — CODE 045 — COUNTY Allendale — CODE 005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		X NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
George Easterling Bryan

STREET & NUMBER
RFD

CITY, TOWN
Allendale — X VICINITY OF — STATE South Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Allendale County Clerk of Court's Office

STREET & NUMBER
Pine Street

CITY, TOWN
Allendale — STATE South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE
1973 — __FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN
Columbia — STATE South Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Gravel Hill is a two-story white frame Greek revival structure set upon a raised basement. This one-time plantation was constructed between 1857 and 1859 by Benjamin Lawton Willingham (1828-1898).

Exterior: The front facade is characterized by a gable roof and a one-story portico which is supported by four wooden square columns. Wooden balustrades both enclose and top the portico. A Cross and Bible entrance door with saw-tooth moldings features transom and sidelights. Located directly above the first floor door, on both the second story and in the gable end of the roof, similar windows repeat the moldings and sidelights. Sandstone steps lead to the front entrance way.

A balustraded piazza with five small columns extends along the east facade. A parapet is located above the side piazza along the front facade. The side door is similar to the entrance door and is enhanced by a window (with sidelights and moldings) located directly above on the second floor.

All windows (with the exception of three small windows) are 6/6. The windows along the front and east side facades, except those with sidelights and moldings, have louvered shutters. The high gable metal roof features boxed cornices and four interior brick chimneys.

A raised terrace connecting the front portico and side piazza was added ca. 1900, and the foundation was enclosed with cement ca. 1955. During the course of the years, two small wings have been added to the rear of the structure.

Interior: The interior floor plan is basically rectangular with wide central halls extending the length of the house on both floors. An equally wide side hall leading to the side piazza connects to the main floor central hallway. A stairway broken by landing and completed with hand-wrought wooden railing is located in rear. There are a total of fifteen rooms, with eight on the main floor, six on the upper floor, and one off the stairway landing. An attic is located on the third level.

Throughout the structure the walls and ceilings are made of plaster, none of which have been covered or replaced. The rear hall is separated from the central hallway by double Cross and Bible doors with sidelights and transom, similar to front and side entrance doors. The sitting room and dining room are connected by a three-paneled folding door which can be pushed back to create a large entertaining area.

A central oblong plaster medallion of grape and cherub design is located in the central hallway on the main floor. A similar medallion appears in the front parlor. Wall moldings are of similar design, and wooden mantels and woodwork are marbleized. The guest bedroom on the main floor has a deep plain plaster molding. Appearing throughout the structure are wide baseboards, mantels and moldings.

(continued)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X_RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X_1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X_1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	X_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1857-1859, 1865 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Benjamin Willingham

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Gravel Hill, constructed between 1857 and 1859, is important not only as an example of Greek revival architecture, but also as one of the few remaining plantations of the Buddenville area (about five miles SW of present day Allendale, South Carolina). In the first half of the 19th Century Buddenville was "a region inhabited by large planters and land owners where wealth, affluence, culture and high standards of living were reflected in palatial homes and surroundings."[1] Gravel Hill is one of the few structures in the Buddenville area that was not destroyed in the War Between the States.

Further significance stems from the contributions of the past owners of Gravel Hill, who have been influential in community, county, and religious affairs. The original owner and builder of Gravel Hill was Benjamin Lawton Willingham (1828-1898). He resided there until after the War Between the States, at which time he gave the house to one of his daughters, Phobe Willingham Malone. In the 1880s she sold the plantation to Charles Edward Bryan, in whose family it has remained for three generations.

Architecture: Gravel Hill exemplifies the Greek revival architecture which gained prominence during the 19th Century and is one of the few structures in the Allendale area from the antebellum era.

The interior is especially notable due to the quality of detail work and its basically unaltered condition. The marbleized mantels and woodwork, plaster medallions and moldings, and walls and ceilings remain in good condition.

Politics: William Bryan, an owner of Gravel Hill, served as one of the original members of the Allendale County Board of Commissioners (1920). In the 1930s he assisted in securing the Savannah River Bridge into Georgia.

Religion: Reverend Robert J. Willingham (1854-1914), son of Benjamin Lawton Willingham, lived at Gravel Hill until after the War Between the States. He served as corresponding secretary for the Foreign Board of the Southern Baptist Convention

[1]Alexania Easterling Lawton and Minnie Reeves Wilson, Allendale on the Savannah (Bamberg, South Carolina: Bamberg Herald Printers, 1970), p. 164.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Julien, Carl and Martin, Chlotilde. Sea Islands to Sand Hills. Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press, 1954.

King, Joe M. A History of South Carolina Baptists. Columbia, South Carolina: R. L. Bryan Company, 1964.

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7 acres

UTM REFERENCES

Latitude N 32° - 58' - 04"

Longitude W 81° - 23' - 18"

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A				B			
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
Katharine McNulty, Historic Preservation Staff (Mr. Thomas O. Lawton, Jr.)

ORGANIZATION
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

DATE
8-13-75

STREET & NUMBER
P. O. Box 11,669, Capitol Station, 1430 Senate Street

TELEPHONE
(803) 758-5816

CITY OR TOWN
Columbia

STATE
South Carolina

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

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 Charles E. Lee

TITLE Charles E. Lee
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 12-29-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 5/28/76

ATTEST: Charles A. Hillinger

DATE 5.25.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

GPO 888-445

The basement originally extended the length and breadth of the structure but has been closed off with only one part remaining in use for storage purposes.

Surroundings: This one-time cotton plantation originally consisted of ca. one thousand acres, seven of which are being nominated. Included in these seven acres are a two-story frame smokehouse with hip roof, garage and well.

The orchards around the structure have been destroyed through the years, but some trees do survive. The original gardens with boxwood bordered beds and paths were replaced by lawns during the 1920s.

for twenty years. "Willingham became widely known as an unusually effective speaker in behalf of missions; it was during his tenure that Southern Baptists made marked advances in the work of seminaries and publishing houses around the world."[2]

[2]Joe M. King, A History of Southern Baptists (Columbia, South Carolina: R. L. Bryan Company, 1964), p. 345.

Lawton, Alexania Easterling and Wilson, Minnie Reeves. Allendale on the Savannah. Bamberg, South Carolina: Bamberg Herald Printers, 1970.

Miller, Annie Elizabeth. Our Family Circle. Marietta, Georgia: Continental Book Company, 1957.

Personal Interview, Thomas O. Lawton, Attorney at Law, August 5, 1975.