

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0694371

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 14 1979
DATE ENTERED	

**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 Kilkenny

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

*E of Richmond Hill on*  
~~at the end of Kilkenny Road, 3 miles east of Georgia~~  
~~Highway 199~~

CITY, TOWN

Richmond Hill

VICINITY OF

---NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
1st - Bo Ginn

STATE

Georgia

CODE

13

COUNTY

Bryan

CODE

029

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Bowers

STREET & NUMBER  
Rt. 1, Box 216

CITY, TOWN

Richmond Hill

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Bryan County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Pembroke

STATE

Georgia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Bryan County Survey

DATE  
1975

---FEDERAL  STATE ---COUNTY ---LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Historic Preservation Section; Department of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house at Kilkenny is unusual in the area because it is neither Plantation Plain nor Sand Hills Cottage style. It is a one and one-half story frame structure with a four over four room, central hall plan. Raised only slightly on brick piers enclosed with wooden lattice work, the house has been weatherboarded with the exception of the front, which has unusual vertical siding. The porch's hip roof is supported by six plain, square columns, the design of which is repeated on the small, shed-roofed side porch. The gable ends of the house have boxed cornices and returns and the main gable has a small widow's walk at its peak.

The building was considerably renovated by Henry Ford in the 1930's and has a number of more recent architectural features. The most unusual features of the house are ten (five front and back) small, horizontal, rectangular windows squeezed between the roof eaves and the porch roof, located at floor level in the interior. The side windows, with six over six lights, are topped by a plain lintel and the front windows are really double doors. The entrance is a Dutch door with a glass-paned top and three narrow, vertical lunettes. Both appear to be new.

The house is served by three identical, interior chimneys, two on the south end and one in the center of the two north rooms. A tall, narrow chimney with a triangular cap is located in one of the back shed rooms, now the kitchen.

Interior details appear to have been added during the Ford restoration as they are similar to those found in the James Massey House, another Ford effort. Ford also introduced small doors into the walls of the house which, when opened, reveal cannonball holes from Civil War bombardment. The downstairs rooms have varicolored marble mantelpieces, a deep cornice and picture moulding. The walls throughout the house are plastered and the floors are eight inch wide pine planks. An unusual interior curve (illustrated) is located between the closets of the downstairs, northwest room.

Kilkenny is located at the end of an oak avenue in the middle of a trailer park/fish camp. At least two of the other residences appear to have been part of the plantation at one time, possibly as double cabined servants' quarters, and there is an outstanding kitchen with a massive double fireplace which includes a bread oven. The exterior of this outbuilding has been weatherboarded, but the interior is virtually untouched. The pegged beams are visible and the sleeping loft is reached by stairs which climb the side of the chimney. It is one of the few pre-Civil War outbuildings still extant on the coast of Georgia.

# 8 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 type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES                      c. 1837                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT                      Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Kilkenny is significant as a colonial settlement, a nineteenth century plantation and a part of Henry Ford's twentieth century plantation, Richmond Hill. Architecturally, it is a reflection of both its nineteenth century origins and the latter day restoration accomplished by Ford.

The beginnings of a settlement at Kilkenny go back to 1747, when Col. John Mullryne petitioned the Royal Governor's Council on behalf of several "Inhabitants of South Carolina" for land

situated on a River that leads from the Ogeechee to St. Catherines Sound, it being a Neck bounded on two Sides by the Ogeechee & River Midway and opposite to the Island Ussabaw (sic) for himself & Each of the aforesaid Persons, Setting forth That they are mostly Men of easy Fortunes and are resolved to settle the Same immediately, Some in Person or others by Servants; their Intention being to carry on a considerable Trade to the West Indies and other Parts by Ship Building, Exporting of Lumber &c, and likewise the Indian Trade. . . and their Reason for settling in this Colony is for a nearer Communication with the Creek Nations. . . (Colonial Records of Georgia, Volume VI, p. 220ff)

The Council debated the request and, noting that James Maxwell and Morgan Sab, two of the petitioners "are well known to be Men of Worth and largely concerned in all Parts of the Indian Trade," decided to grant a portion of the requested property, distributing 500 acres each to Mulryne, Maxwell, Sab and John Hutchinson, holding the remainder "until their Honours Direction thereon would be shown." Apparently the South Carolinians were less successful in their plan for a thriving trading settlement. When other requests for Grants in the area were made, the Council investigated their progress. Finding that little had been accomplished, they granted the reserved land to others.

It was Maxwell's grant which appears to have formed the core of the present Kilkenny. In 1764, James Maxwell, Jr. advertised in the (Savannah) Georgia Gazette (April 12, p.1) the sale of 500 acres "where he now lives. . . known as Kilkenny" of which 200 acres were planted in corn and indigo and the rest pine land, situated "on a navigable creek within 6 miles of the bar of St. Catharines, any vessel that can come over the bar may load at the landing, there are also some convenient buildings thereon."

Thomas Young, son in law of James Maxwell, Jr., owned Kilkenny the following year, along with 47 slaves. As a Loyalist, Young was mentioned in the 1778 Act of Attainder and his property at Kilkenny was sold to George Cubbedge in the sales of confiscated estates for £650. Through the intervention of friends, however, his property was returned to him, although he was prohibited from voting or holding office for 17 years.

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Personal Inspection, Victoria Reeves Gunn, August 26, 1976  
 U.S. Census of Population, 1850, 1860  
 U.S. Census of Agriculture, 1850, 1860  
 Bryan County Deed Books  
 (Savannah) Georgia Gazette, April 12, 1764  
 Candler, Allen D. Colonial Records of Georgia, Vol. VI (Atlanta: Franklin Printing Co., 1906) (continued)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY app. 1 acre      Quadrangle Name: Oak Level  
 UTM REFERENCES      Scale: 1:24000

A	<u>1, 7</u>	<u>4, 8, 0</u>	<u>7, 4, 0</u>	<u>3, 5</u>	<u>1, 6</u>	<u>9, 5, 0</u>	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C							D					

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary shall be formed by a line that connects points determined to be 50 feet from any and all exterior walls of the main structure and includes the kitchen building.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Victoria Reeves Gunn - Historical Consultant;  
Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian, Historic Preservation Section  
 ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Section - Department of Natural Resources  
 STREET & NUMBER 270 Washington Street SW      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 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 Elizabeth A. Lyon  
 TITLE Acting State Historic Preservation Officer      DATE 10/11/78

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

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

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION      DATE 2-14-79  
 ATTEST: Phyllis Alderson      **KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**  
Phyllis Alderson      DATE 2/13/79  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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The executors of the will of Thomas Young conveyed Kilkenny to Dr. Charles W. Rogers of McIntosh County, Georgia in 1836. Rogers quickly reconveyed the property to his son, Rev. Charles W. Rogers, Jr., also securing a nearby plantation known as Cottenham for his other son, William M. Rogers. According to local tradition, the present house at Kilkenny was built by one of the Rogers' soon after this transaction.

Although a man of obvious wealth and prominence, little is known of Rogers and his sons. The elder Rogers died prior to 1850, leaving a substantial estate. Young Rogers seems to have spent little time in residence at Kilkenny. In 1850, although Rogers' 125 slaves are enumerated in the census, he himself does not appear as a citizen of Bryan County. His plantation primarily appears to have been producing food crops for the slaves. Yet, the next census in 1860 shows the value of the plantation to have increased five times (to \$30,000) and that it is producing the largest number of bales of cotton in the county (60.) One hundred and fifty three slaves were working the plantation, but again, Rogers is not enumerated in the population census. (The entry appears as "Charles Rogers Plantation.")

In 1874, Anna M. West, "widow of Chatham County," conveyed 3,500 acres known as Kilkenny to James M. Butler. (Bryan County Deed Book K, p. 50) Since Anna West was the maiden name of Charles Rogers, Jr.'s mother, it may be assumed that the deed was in error and that the younger Rogers' mother was handling the deposition of her son's property, possibly after his death, although no estate records exist.

From this date, Kilkenny changed hands frequently, having five owners in the next 55 years, one of whom was Tennessee Governor John I. Cox. It was Cox who sold Kilkenny to Henry Ford in 1931. Ford restored and renovated a number of plantation houses which came into his possession during the 1930's, but Kilkenny appears to have been a favorite with him, as he duplicated its design in the nearby James Massey House.

Ford's entire Georgia estate was purchased by the International Paper Company in 1950. Marc Levine of Birmingham, Alabama acquired the property from the Company in 1955, later selling it to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Bowers.

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Architecturally, Kilkenny is significant in that it is a rare example of a form of architecture found more prevalently in the Northeast or Midwest. Specifically, it has eyebrow windows on the second floor level, a characteristic of Greek Revival homes in those areas which is rarely, if ever, found in Georgia, where one-story cottages or two-story white-columned mansions were the prevalent Greek Revival styles. In an era where Plantation Plain styling was on the upswing and Federal styling on the wane, Kilkenny, being neither of these, is thus significant as a transitional piece of Georgia architecture.

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Cooper, Ben Green, History of Bryan County, Georgia. Manuscript, on microfilm at Georgia Department of Archives and History.

Kilkenny, Richmond Hill vicinity,  
Bryan County, Georgia

Sketch Map  
Not to Scale

FEB 14 1979

Key: Red Line = Boundary of nominated  
property

JAN 8 1979

