



# CHATHAM COUNTY REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

## Fee Form

### Historic Property Designation

Property Address: 243 Fallgast Ave,  
Savannah, Georgia 31410-1414

Make check payable to the "Chatham County." Fees for property designation are as follows:

- Property already designated or currently under review for designation as a National Register Historic Property: One hundred dollars (\$100.00).
- Property not designated or under review for designation as a National Register Historic Property: Two hundred dollars (\$200.00).

Check #: 1141 Check Amount: \$200.

Done

Please send fee and fee form to:  
**Chatham County Revenue Department**  
Post Office Box 9297  
Savannah, Georgia 31412

Instructions to Chatham  
Please send a copy of  
Chatham County Preservation  
Metropolitan Planning  
110 East State Street  
Savannah, Georgia 31401

53-179/113 1141

BEVERLEY BRYAN VERNON  
31 SCHOOL ST.  
HINGHAM, MA 02043-2837

DATE Apr 120, 2022

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Chatham County \$200.00

Two hundred and 0/100 DOLLARS

Premier Checking

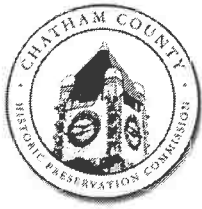
Beverley B. Vernon MP

Eastern Bank Boston, MA 02110  
easternbank.com  
800-EASTERN

MEMO CC Register

⑆011301798⑆ 0401851910⑆ 1141





# CHATHAM COUNTY REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES Historic Property Designation Application

MPC File # \_\_\_\_\_

- Property type:
- building (includes house, barn, store, office, school, etc.)
  - structure (includes windmill, bridge, ship, etc.)
  - site (includes battlefield, ruin, cemetery, landscape features, etc.)
  - object (includes sculpture, monument, statue, fountain, etc.)

### 1. Name and Location of Property

historic name Heirs of Screven, John (per SAGIS)  
 other names Bryan Cemetery  
 address or location (if there is no address) 243 Falligant Ave. Savannah, Georgia 31410-1414  
 PIN # of property 10049 01020 number of buildings or structures 2 identified that belong  
 has the building(s) been moved or reconstructed? yes  no  approximate age of property 1812 as cemetery

### 2. Property Owner Information

name decendents of Joseph Bryan and his wife Delia as well as Florida Forman who are known to be buried on the property  
 address unknown  
 city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
 phone number \_\_\_\_\_ fax \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Designation Prepared By

name/title Beverley Bryan Vernon  
 organization Friends of Bryan Cemetery, Inc  
 address 31 School Street  
 city Hingham state MA zip code 02043  
 phone number 617-816-0192 fax \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail bbvernon39@gmail.com  
 signature Beverley Bryan Vernon Digitally signed by Beverley Bryan Vernon  
DN: cn=US, o=Friends of Bryan Cemetery, Inc, CH=Beverley Bryan Vernon, E=bbvernon39@gmail.com  
Reason: I am the author of this document.  
Location: your signing location here  
Date: 2022.04.25 11:52:39-0400  
Fax: 617-816-0192  
File: 2022-04-25-11-52-39-0400 date April 18, 2022

### 4. Classification

Is the proposed property already listed on the National Register? Yes  No

Is the proposed property currently under consideration for National Register listing? Yes  No

If yes, date applied? \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Description

**Narrative Description:** Describe the existing condition of the property (use continuation sheets as necessary). Include the overall character, appearance, architectural characteristics, material and finishes, original and current functions, and environmental surroundings.

This property is a cemetery with two structures that serve as markers for the deceased buried there. It is overgrown and the mausoleum of Joseph Bryan is in disrepair. This structure is made of original Georgian red brick but needs to be repaired for protection of the remains.

The obelisque appears to be in good condition but overgrowth makes it difficult to see clearly.

The iron fencing around the structures is in poor condition if it exists at all. The property has structures from

abutting neighbors that need to be removed (see survey Ref. #3)

## 6. Statement of Significance

### Criteria for Local Designation

(mark one or more boxes for applicable criteria)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- Property has a special character, land use pattern, or special or aesthetic interest or value.
- Property is associated with an event or person(s) of historical or cultural significance to the County of Chatham, State of Georgia, or the region.
- Property represents one or more periods or styles of architecture typical of one or more eras in the history of the County of Chatham, State or Georgia or region.
- Property is one of the few remaining examples of a past architectural style.

### Specific Areas of Significance

(mark one or more boxes)

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering              | <input type="checkbox"/> Military                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archaeology- historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Performing arts                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology- prehistoric         | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic Heritage          | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration/settlement   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Politics/government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Health/medicine          | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community planning    | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/humanitarian            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Law                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economics                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature               | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's history                |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Maritime history         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)                |

**Narrative Statement of Significance:** Explain the significance of property (use continuation sheets as necessary). Reference each of the boxes marked above.

Archaeology - historic: this land was part of the over 600 acre plantation that was known as Nonchalance (see attached that gives history about the historic plantation - Ref. 4)

Community planning: this land is of interest to the Talahi Island community for saving as open space. Members of the Friends of Bryan Cemetery board are residences of the area.

Landscape Architecture: The neglect of the property has caused damage to the historic Georgian red brick mausoleum. The mausoleum needs restoration in order to protect Joseph and Delia Bryan who were buried there. (Ref. 5 photos)

Politics and Government: this property was where slaves worked and is the last remaining part of the history of Talahi Island/Wilmington Island history. The ancestry of Joseph and Delia Bryan connect to the Screven history through marriage.(see Ref. 4) The obilisque for Florida Forman is part of the family ancestry (see Ref. 5)

**Narrative History:** Provide a written history of the property (use continuation sheets as necessary). Include the physical development of the property (including the date of construction, dates of significant alterations or additions, original architect, builder, engineer, etc.), the uses of the property, the people associated with the property (including original and subsequent owners), the events and activities that took place at the property, and key dates.

See Ref. 4 which describe the plantation Nonchalance that was owned by Joseph Bryan. Much research has been done on the land and there is no one owner as this land was consistently carved out of the deeds surrounding the land. The ancestors of Beverley Bryan Vernon are listed in Ref. 6 and show the connection to Joseph and Delia Bryan and their children who were born at Nonchalance.

This site was listed in the 2006 Chatham County Community Assessment Report (See Ref. 7).

### 7. Geographical Data

**Verbal Boundary Description** Describe the boundaries of the property. This may follow the legal description or survey, and explain why the boundaries were selected.

See Ref. 3 - the survey conducted by Vincent Helmly, 31 August 2020, recorded 4 August 202, Bk 43, pg 519. The boundaries were selected based on the boundaries of the abutting properties. Some items on the survey belong to the abutter and it is hoped they will be removed as restoration and maintenance begin.

Provide a Location Map to show where the property is located within Chatham County.

Provide a Property Map depicting the boundaries of the property and where all the buildings are located on the property.

For further information, please contact:

**Leah G. Michalak, Preservation Professional**

**Phone: 912-651-1453**

**Email: [michalaki@thempc.org](mailto:michalaki@thempc.org)**

For internal use only. do not mark in this space.

- |                          |                      |       |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Check received       | Date: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Application received | Date: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Pre-meeting          | Date: |







PARID: 10049 01020

SCREVEN JOHN HRS OF

243 FALLIGANT AVE

**Most Current Owner**

*Neglected Property*

Current Owner Co-Owner Care Of Mailing Address

SCREVEN JOHN HRS OF 243 FALLIGANT AVE SAVANNAH GA 31410-1414

*Friends of Bryan Cemetery, Inc. a 501c3 non-profit is claiming responsibility to restore property.*

**Digest Owner (January 1)**

Owner	Co-Owner	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	Zip
SCREVEN JOHN HRS OF		243 FALLIGANT AVE		SAVANNAH	GA	31410

*We want name change please*

**Parcel**

Status	ACTIVE
Parcel ID	10049 01020
Category Code	RES - Residential
Bill #	2922758
Address	243 FALLIGANT AVE
Unit # / Suite	
City	SAVANNAH
Zip Code	31410-
Neighborhood	20162.00 - T162 TURNRS CRK
Total Units	
Zoning	R-1-A/EO
Class	E4 - Exempt - Cemetery
Appeal Status	

**Legal Description**

Legal Description	TCT N SIDE FALLIGANT AVE TALAHI ISL
Deed Book	
Deed Page	

**Inspection**

Inspection Date	Reviewer ID
04/08/2021	RKRYZAK
03/14/2017	FIRDAWSS
03/12/2012	MWTHOMAS
06/06/2002	STAFF

**Appraised Values**

Tax Year	Land	Building	Appraised Total	Reason
2020	567,600	16,100	583,700	
2019	567,600	16,100	583,700	

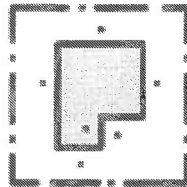
2018	567,600	16,800	584,400
2017	567,600	18,300	585,900
2016	567,600	20,600	588,200
2015	561,000	22,900	583,900
2014	561,000	25,900	586,900
2013	561,000	29,700	590,700
2012	561,000	35,800	596,800

**Land**

Line Number	1
Land Type	F - FRONT FOOT
Land Code	113 - CREEK/DIRECT ACCESS
Square Feet	45,619
Acres	1.0473
Influence Factor 1	-20
Influence Reason 1	
Influence Factor 2	
Influence Reason 2	

**OBJ**

Card #	Description	Year Built:	Grade:	Units:	Override:	Area:
1	9712 : DOCK, LIGHT CONST., 2" DECKING, LIGHT POSTS	1998		1		600
1	9712 : DOCK, LIGHT CONST., 2" DECKING, LIGHT POSTS	1998		1		2,640



Sorry, no sketch available for this record

Item	Area
- 9712:DOCK, LIGHT CONST., 2" DECKING, LIGHT POSTS	2640
- 9712:DOCK, LIGHT CONST., 2" DECKING, LIGHT POSTS	600





## BRYAN.

GENERATION V.

1-2-9-14.

16. HONORABLE JOSEPH BRYAN was born August 8, 1773, and died September 5, 1812. He was the only child and inherited the property of his father, which was on Wilmington and Whitmarsh Islands just below Savannah, Georgia.

His guardian was Pierce Butler, of Georgia, and his early education was in New Jersey—at school and Princeton College, then at Cambridge University, England. On his return from England he studied law in the office of Edmund Randolph, Attorney-General of the United States in Philadelphia in 1793, where he became intimate with John Randolph of Roanoke, also a student under his relative, Edmund Randolph.

This year (1793) was memorable for the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia, and it was during that trying time that Joseph Bryan rendered John Randolph some service of which Randolph always spoke as such an act of friendship as no man had ever rendered to another.

They visited each other in their respective homes and their friendship was lifelong; Bryan naming his firstborn Randolph, and Randolph superintending the education of Bryan's sons after his death. The years 1799 to 1802 Joseph Bryan spent traveling over Europe, and on his return home he was elected to Congress (1802-1806) from Georgia, where he was identified with the party known as the Minority party who opposed some of Thomas Jefferson's favorite views. Jefferson's embargo scheme and his French affiliation were opposed by such men as Caesar Rodney, Joseph Nicholson, of Maryland, Clay of Pennsylvania, Rutledge of South Carolina, Bryan of Georgia, and others. The Yazoo speculation was resolutely opposed by Bryan in the legislature of Georgia and deep odium thrown on its managers by the action of that body; and also in Congress, where the applicants from the North for relief never found success until Bryan's death and Randolph's place was filled by John W. Eppes.

In 1805 Joseph Bryan married, at Chestertown, Delia Forman of "Rose Hill," Cecil County, Maryland. His friends—Randolph, Nichol-





# GEORGIA FAMILY LINES

By Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.  
Historical Researcher, The Georgia Genealogical Society

The Governors of Georgia  
and Their Wives  
Part II  
George M. Troup

## TROUP-MCCORMICK-CARTER

George Michael Troup was born September 8, 1780 in what is now Alabama and died April 26, 1856. He is buried at Rosemont Plantation, then in Montgomery County, now in Treutlen County. His gravesite was maintained by the Georgia Historical Commission.

Troup was a U.S. Congressman from 1807-1815; a U.S. senator from 1816-1818 and 1829-1833. He was Governor of Georgia from 1823-1827.

Governor Troup was a son of George Troup, a native of England, and Catherine McIntosh. The elder Troup died in the early 1790s, and his widow remarried Dec. 16, 1796 Owen Owens a merchant and alderman of Savannah. She was related to the famous McIntosh family of Revolutionary Georgia and to Chief William McIntosh. She died in 1803.

For Col. A. J. Pickett, Governor Troup reiterated that his middle name was Michael and not McIntosh and then listed, from the family Bible, the births of his brothers (he had no sisters): John McIntosh, born December 3, 1778; David, born November 8, 1781; Roderick William, born Feb. 28, 1783; Robert Lachlan, born December 1784 (he died in 1848 at Rosemont Plantation); and John James McGillivray, born August 31, 1786. He died in 1849 and was buried near his plantation Hofwyl-Broadfield in Glynn County, now a state-owned historic site.

George M. Troup married (1) October 30, 1803 in Louisville (then the state capital) Ann St. Clair McCormick, said in the newspapers of the times to be a daughter of the late Dr. McCormick of Louisville. This would most likely be Dr. James McCormick whose estate was in probate then. She died, childless, on September 30, 1804 at their home in Bryan County.

George M. Troup married (2) November 8, 1809 (while he was in Congress) Ann Williams Carter, said in the newspapers of the times to be the daughter of "the late George Carter" but in genealogical works indicated to be a daughter

of Edward Carter and Sarah Champe of "Blenheim," Albemarle Co., Va. who had, besides Ann (Nancy), eleven older children. Her father was a grandson of the famous Robert "King" Carter of Virginia, thus making Mrs. Troup kin to the Lees, Byrds, and Harrisons of Virginia.

A sister, Mary Champe (1778-1846), the second wife of Judge Francis T. Brooke, was said by President Jefferson to be the most beautiful woman he had ever seen.

Mrs. Troup died in May, 1828 while on a visit to New York and it is not clear where she was buried.

George M. and Ann (Carter) Troup are said to have had six children, although only four are known, the others apparently dying as infants:

1. Coralie, died as an infant in Washington, D.C., by December 7, 1811.

2. Florida, born Sept. 16, 1813 in Washington, D.C. More Later.

3. George M., Jr., born around 1815, said to have died around 1858 without issue. He was a graduate of the University of Georgia, Class of 1835. He is mentioned in C. G. Parsons' *An Inside View of Slavery* about the author's tour of 1852-3 during which he visited the Troup plantations. The book was reprinted in 1974.

4. Oralie, born around 1820. Married January 11, 1866 Dr. John A. Vigal, a widower with children, at her plantation "Valambrosa" in Laurens County, which she inherited from her father. The wedding was one of the grandest ever, especially for Reconstruction times. She is said to be the only one buried at the plantation where she continued to live after her husband's death in 1871.

She is mentioned many times in coastal narratives, such as Fanny Kemble's *Journal of a Residence on a Georgia Plantation in 1838-1839* (1863).

**FLORIDA TROUP** born September 16, 1813 in Washington, D.C., and died December 23, 1847, in childbirth, on Broughton's Island near Darien, Georgia where she was living. She was buried on Wilmington Island, near Savannah, beside her husband's parents.

She had married November 19, 1834, at the home of her Uncle Doctor James Troup, **Thomas Forman Bryan, son of Joseph Bryan (1773-1812) and Delia Forman (1788-1825).** Thomas F. Bryan was born in 1809 on

Wilmington Island, and died September 27, 1875 in Brunswick where he is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery.

At the request of his grandfather, General Thomas M. Forman (1758-1845) of Cecil County, Maryland, Bryan and his wife had their names legally changed in 1846 by an act of the Maryland legislature. By becoming Thomas Marsh Forman, he inherited his grandfather's estate known as "Rose Hill" near Earleville, in Cecil County. The home remains today in private hands and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Thomas Marsh Forman was a member of the Georgia legislature in 1847 and served in the Provisional Confederate Congress in 1861.

After Florida's death, Forman married (2) August 30, 1849 in Staunton, Virginia, her first cousin, Mrs. Helen Brooke Hamilton, divorced wife of Robert Hamilton, and daughter of Judge Francis T. Brooke and Mary Champe Carter. By her first marriage she had one daughter, Mary. The Formans had five children of their own. More Later.

Florida (Troup) and Thomas M. Bryan/Forman had seven children:

A. Georgia Troup Bryan (1835-38).

B. John Screven Bryan, born Nov. 26, 1837, died Feb. 1, 1902 in Dublin, Ga. leaving a will. Buried in the Dublin City Cemetery. Never married.

C. Hugh Bryan, born Jan. 3, 1840, died Jan. 5, 1897. Buried originally at Rosemont Plantation, later reinterred in the Dublin City Cemetery under the terms of his brother's will.

D. Ann Carter Bryan, born 1841, died Aug. 14, 1862 in Athens, Georgia while refugeeing there with other coastal families. Buried in Oconee Hill Cemetery.

E. Augusta Forman Bryan, born Feb. 16, 1844. More Later.

F. Georgia Bryan Forman, born Jan. 17, 1846. More Later.

G. Thomas Marsh Forman, Jr., born Dec. 22, 1847, died July 6, 1848. An unborn twin died with their mother.

Thomas M. Forman (formerly Bryan) and Helen (Brooke) had five children:

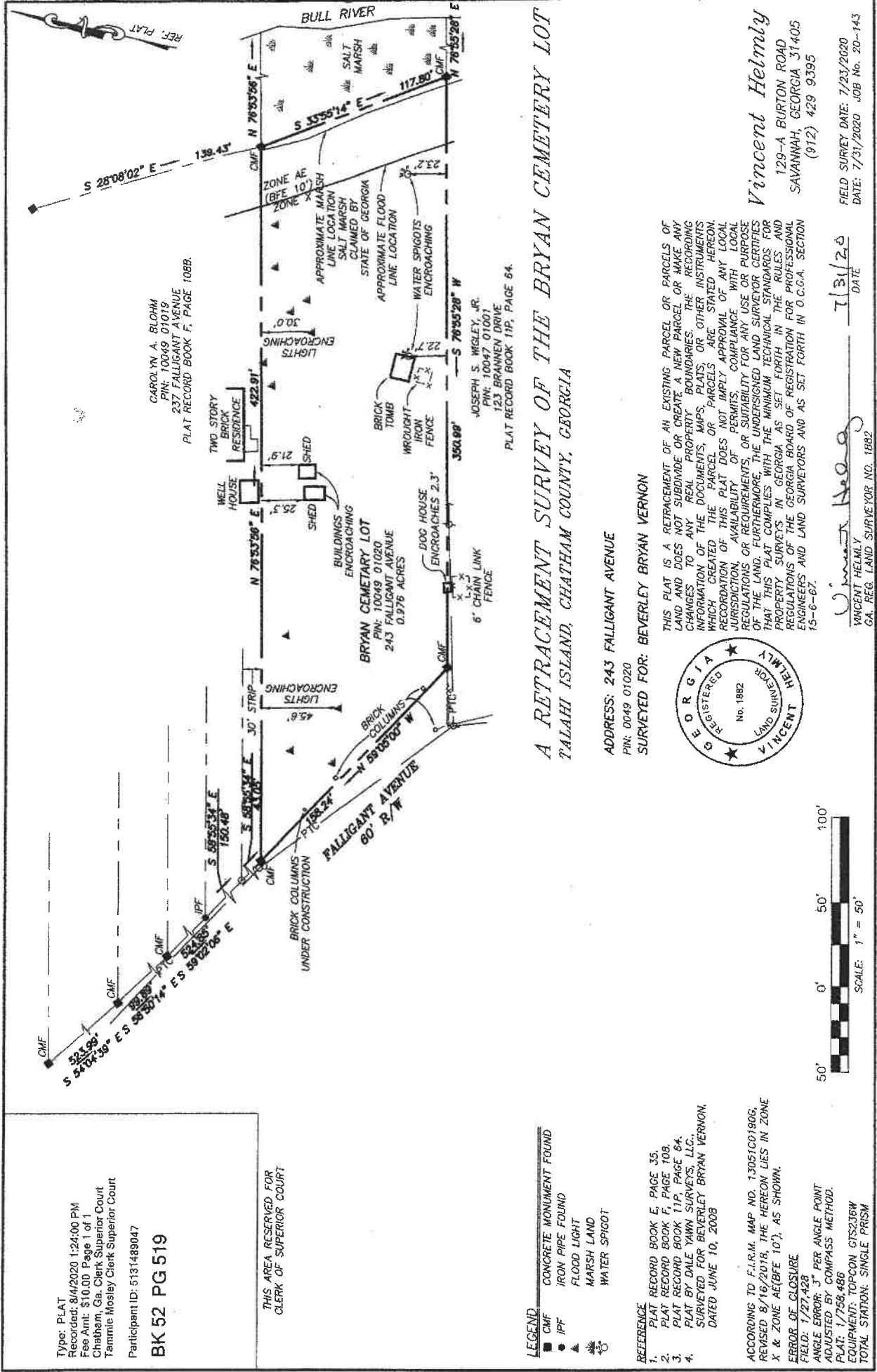
H. Francis Brooke Forman, born June 6, 1850, a son, who died young.

I. Florida Troup Forman, born Sept. 9, 1851 in Chancellorsville, Va., married 1874 John Wheeler Myers, no issue.





REF. 3



Type: PLAT  
 Recorded: 8/4/2020 1:24:00 PM  
 Fee Amt: \$10.00 Page 1 of 1  
 Chatham, Ga. Clerk Superior Court  
 Temmie Mosley Clerk Superior Court  
 Participant ID: 5131489047

**BK 52 PG 519**

THIS AREA RESERVED FOR  
 CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

- LEGEND**
- CMF CONCRETE MONUMENT FOUND
  - IPF IRON PIPE FOUND
  - FLOOD LIGHT
  - MARSH LAND
  - WATER SPIGOT

- REFERENCE**
1. PLAT RECORD BOOK E, PAGE 35.
  2. PLAT RECORD BOOK F, PAGE 108.
  3. PLAT RECORD BOOK T1P, PAGE 64.
  4. PLAT BY DALE YAWN SURVEYS, LLC, SURVEYED FOR BEVERLEY BRYAN VERNON, DATED JUNE 10, 2008

ACCORDING TO F.L.R.M. MAP NO. 13051C0190G, REVISED 8/16/2018, THE HEREON LIES IN ZONE X & ZONE AE(BFE 10'), AS SHOWN.  
 ERROR OF CLOSURE  
 FIELD: 1/27,428  
 ANGLE ERROR: 3" PER ANGLE POINT  
 ADJUSTED BY COMPASS METHOD.  
 PLAT: 1/758,486  
 EQUIPMENT: TOPCON GTS236W  
 TOTAL STATION: SINGLE PRISM

**A RETRACEMENT SURVEY OF THE BRYAN CEMETERY LOT  
 TALAHI ISLAND, CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA**

ADDRESS: 243 FALLIGANT AVENUE  
 PIN: 0049 01020  
 SURVEYED FOR: BEVERLEY BRYAN VERNON

THIS PLAT IS A RETRACEMENT OF AN EXISTING PARCEL OR PARCELS OF LAND AND DOES NOT SUBDIVIDE OR CREATE A NEW PARCEL OR MAKE ANY CHANGES TO ANY REAL PROPERTY BOUNDARIES. THE RECORDING INFORMATION OF THE DOCUMENTS, MAPS, PLATS, OR OTHER INSTRUMENTS WHICH CREATED THE PARCEL OR PARCELS ARE STATED HEREON. RECORDATION OF THIS PLAT DOES NOT IMPLY APPROVAL OF ANY LOCAL JURISDICTION, AVAILABILITY OF PERMITS, COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL REGULATIONS OR REQUIREMENTS, OR SUITABILITY FOR ANY USE OR PURPOSE OF THE LAND. FURTHERMORE, THE UNDERSIGNED LAND SURVEYOR CERTIFIES THAT THIS PLAT COMPLES WITH THE MINIMUM TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR PROPERTY SURVEYS IN GEORGIA AS SET FORTH IN THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE GEORGIA BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS AND AS SET FORTH IN O.C.G.A. SECTION 15-6-67.



**Vincent Helmy**  
 129-A BURTON ROAD  
 SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31405  
 (912) 429 9395

*Vincent Helmy*  
 VINCENT HELMY  
 GA. REG. LAND SURVEYOR NO. 1882  
 DATE: 7/31/20  
 DATE: 7/31/2020 JOB No. 20-143

REF. 4

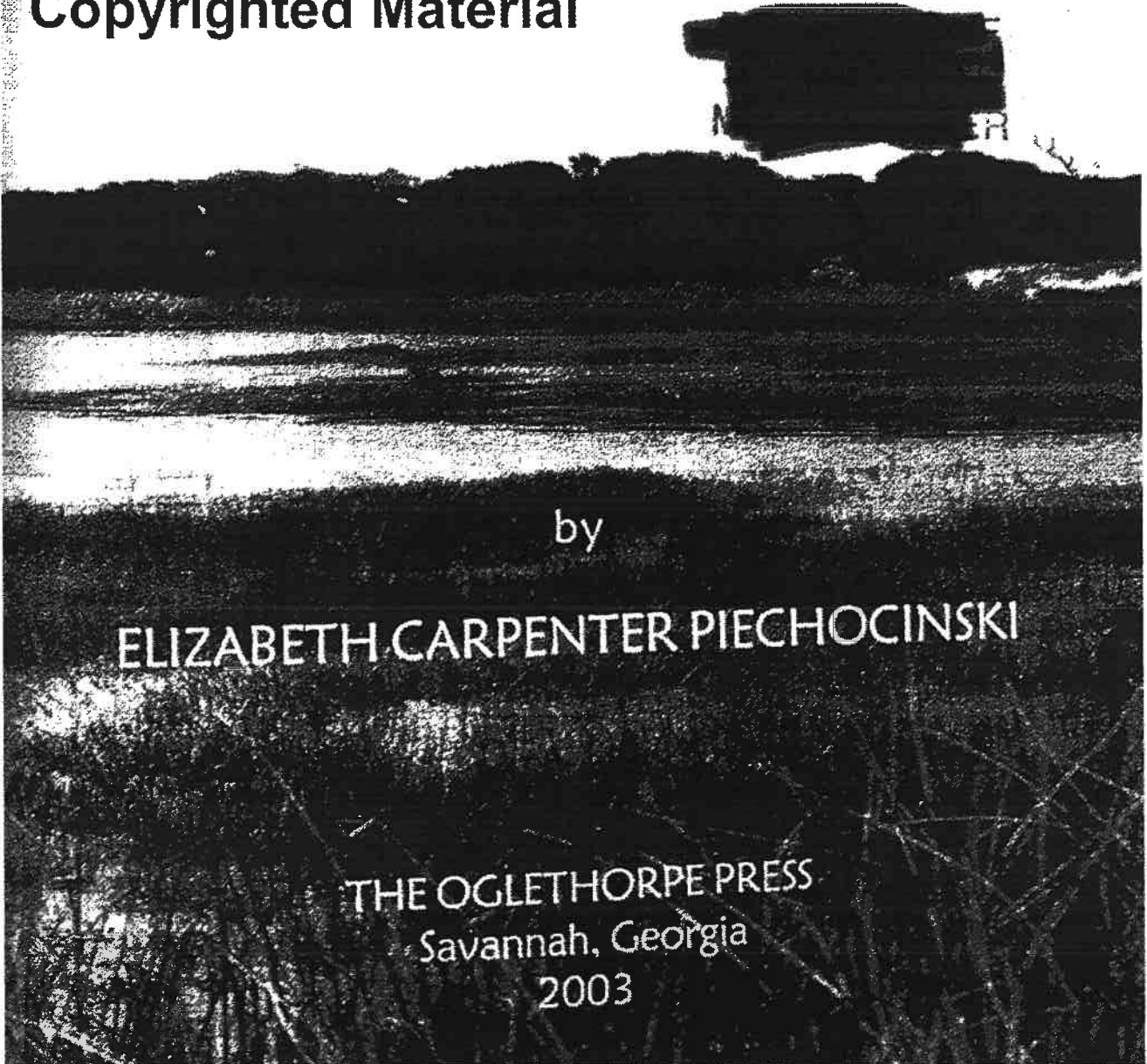
# ONCE UPON AN ISLAND

THE BARRIER AND MARSH ISLANDS

OF

CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

Copyrighted Material



by

ELIZABETH CARPENTER PIECHOCINSKI

THE OGLETHORPE PRESS

Savannah, Georgia

2003

## THE BRYAN AND SCREVEN FAMILIES

Jonathan Bryan, one of at least four children, was born in South Carolina in 1708, the son of Joseph Bryan and Janet Cochran, daughter of Hugh Cochran of South Carolina. Jonathan Bryan married Mary Williamson on October 13, 1737. His sister, Mary, married John Morel, and after his death, she married Richard Wylly in 1784. Another sister of Jonathan's, Hannah Bryan, married John Houstoun, son of Sir Patrick Houstoun.

Mary Williamson was the daughter of John Williamson of South Carolina, and Mary Bower, the daughter of William Bower and Martha Hext. Martha Hext was the daughter of Hugh Hext who, along with William Bower, had come from England to South Carolina.<sup>53</sup>

In 1752, Jonathan Bryan moved to Savannah with his wife and his six year-old son, Josiah. By 1764, Jonathan Bryan had acquired land on Wilmington Island from his brother-in-law, John Morel. The land had been a Crown land grant from King George III to John Morel in 1760. Bryan also acquired several other plantations in Chatham County, but his favorite was Brampton Plantation where he died and was buried in 1788.

The plantation on Wilmington Island, "Nonchalance" as it was later to be called, originally began as a land grant of five hundred acres from King George III to John Morel and his wife, Mary Bryan Morel. In January of 1764, this property was conveyed to Jonathan Bryan.

Jonathan's son, Josiah Bryan, was born in 1746. He married Elizabeth Pendarvis in 1770. Their son, Joseph Bryan, born August 18, 1773, married Delia Forman and came into possession of the Wilmington Island property. Nonchalance Plantation did not produce rice as did some of the others on the surrounding area. Instead, the major crop at that plantation was the well-known Sea Island cotton.<sup>54</sup> Joseph Bryan died in 1812, and was buried at Nonchalance. His will gave specific instructions as to his burial. A clause in his will explicitly stated:

Having long entertained an antipathy to be buried under ground, I request and order my executors, that after my decease, a box of Cypress be made, two feet wide and six feet long, which shall contain My remains and be placed under a shed to the eastward of my home Until wooden building can be erected and when my executors can Conveniently attend, to erect a more solid building. I request that one Of tabby or brick be erected and that my remains be deposited there Above ground.<sup>55</sup>

Joseph Bryan's final wishes were honored, and a very large brick vault was built. It stands today on the property that was once called Nonchalance. When his wife Delia died, December 15, 1825, her body was also placed in the vault. Unfortunately, this vault has not been immune to vandalism. An article in the *Daily Georgian*, dated January 25, 1831, described how someone had broken into the vault twice in the past two years. The first forced entry to the vault occurred in January of 1830, but little damage was done to the coffins themselves. However, in January of 1831, not only did unknown persons enter the vault once again, but they also damaged the coffins and their contents. J. P. Screven and T. M. F. Bryan offered a reward of two hundred dollars for the identification, arrest, and conviction of the guilty parties.



The Bryan burial plot on the old Nonchalance plantation on what was then part of Wilmington Island, later called Screven's Island. Today it is known as Talahi Island.

The Nonchalance property was bought by H. L. Bowyer, Jr., around 1957. At the time of the purchase, Mr. Bowyer noted that the vault had been broken into, the caskets had deteriorated, and the bones were scattered on the floor of the vault. The marble name plaque was found in the woods near the vault. Mr. Bowyer hired a bricklayer to seal the vault, but before this could be done, the bones were stolen.<sup>56</sup>

It has since been brought to my attention that an unidentified individual removed the bones, ostensibly for the purpose of protecting and preserving the Bryan remains. There are indications that this individual is interested in returning the remains of the Bryans to the vault. Certainly this story provokes a number of questions that must wait for answers to be forthcoming. The current owners of the adjacent property, which was once part of Nonchalance, are committed to repairing the old vault properly and maintaining it.

Today, a marble obelisk surrounded by an iron rail fence stands beside the brick vault. This is the gravesite of Florida Bryan Forman, wife of Thomas M. Bryan Forman, who died December 23, 1847, in childbirth on Broughton's Island near Darien where the Formans were living at that time. Their son, George Troup Bryan, born November 26, 1835, and died September 19, 1838. Thomas Marsh Bryan Forman, born in 1809 on Wilmington Island, died September 27, 1875, in Brunswick and is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in Brunswick, Georgia.

Since the Bryan and Screven families had intermarried, the title eventually passed to the Screven side of the family. The land, consisting by this time of 780 acres, five hundred acres of which were high ground, was bounded entirely by water, except at one point on its southeast boundary where its marshes touched the marshes of Wilmington Island. It was bounded on the north by the Bull or Tybee River, on the west by Turner's Creek, and on the south and east by Camoose Creek. It eventually became known as Screven's Island. The name "Nonchalance" was given to the Bryan plantation on Screven's Island.

In September of 1804, a hurricane struck Savannah. Hannah Proctor Screven, the wife of Major John Screven, and their one



Signpost at Nonchalance, Talahi Island, Georgia.

year-old son, John Screven, Jr., were killed when their house at Nonchalance on Wilmington Island collapsed.<sup>57</sup> It was during this same storm that the *Governor Tattnall*, carrying a cargo of coffee, was blown ashore near Nonchalance. It was refloated, and sailed into the port of Savannah a few days later.<sup>58</sup> Newspaper accounts of this hurricane reveal the devastation that took place in Chatham County. Numerous lives were lost as a result of the storm. Little damage, however, was reported from Wilmington and Whitemarsh islands, probably because communications from these islands to the city were difficult, and the islands were also less heavily populated at that time.

In 1831, Thomas Bryan Forman sold his property on Wilmington and Whitemarsh Islands to Dr. James P. Screven, and moved to Broughton Island down in Glynn County, Georgia. He had changed his name from Bryan to Forman in 1846 to comply with the terms of his grandfather Forman's will in order to inherit the Forman property there.<sup>59</sup>

The title to the property passed to James P. Screven. At the death of James P. Screven on July 2, 1859, this property was passed on to his three sons, John, Thomas F., and George P. Screven. When George P. Screven died, October 5, 1876, his estate, including his interest in Screven Island, passed on to John and Thomas Screven as the executors and trustees, in trust for his wife and children.

In 1905, the property was sold to R. H. Mayer for the sum of \$1,398.33. The Mayer trustees then sold more than fifteen hundred acres on Wilmington Island, comprised of the Hunter, Burleigh, Bryan (or Screven), and Betz tracts to the Wilmington Island Land Company on June 26, 1922. The Screven Island tract was sold to Ernest J. Haar in November of 1928, who in turn sold the tract to Jamison Handy of Los Angeles in 1936. Mr. B. B. Comer bought the island from Mr. Handy in 1943, and finally in 1947, the property was purchased by Claude Falligant.<sup>60</sup> The land was then subdivided, improved, and sold in parcels to individual buyers.

Interestingly enough, a stipulation was included in the original sale which was honored throughout all of the other transactions that occurred throughout the years the property changed hands. This stipulation was one which excluded a one-acre lot containing the Bryan burial place. This act of preservation of the burial site stands in stark contrast to the wholesale destruction by land developers of other burial grounds which once were located on the islands. Of these, only an isolated photograph, a faded news clipping, the memory of older inhabitants, or occasionally, a single stone or small brick rubble pile remain to mark their sites.

<sup>53</sup> Heyward, James Barnwell. *The Genealogy of the Pendarvis-Bedon Families of South Carolina, 1670-1900*, Foote & Davis. Co. Atlanta., n.d., p.83

<sup>54</sup> Smith, J.F., *op. cit.*, p. 81.

<sup>55</sup> *Some Early Epitaphs in Georgia*, Georgia Chapter of Colonial Dames in America, 1924, p. 3.

<sup>56</sup> Letter from H. L. Bowyer, Jr. to a Mr. Kenneth H. Thomas of Decatur, Ga., March 4, 1983.

<sup>57</sup> *The Columbian Museum and Savannah Advertiser*, Sept. 15, 1804. p.3.

<sup>58</sup> *The Columbian Museum and Savannah Advertiser*, Sept. 19, 1804.

<sup>59</sup> Thomas, Kenneth H. *Georgia Family Lines*. Spring 1979, p. 38.

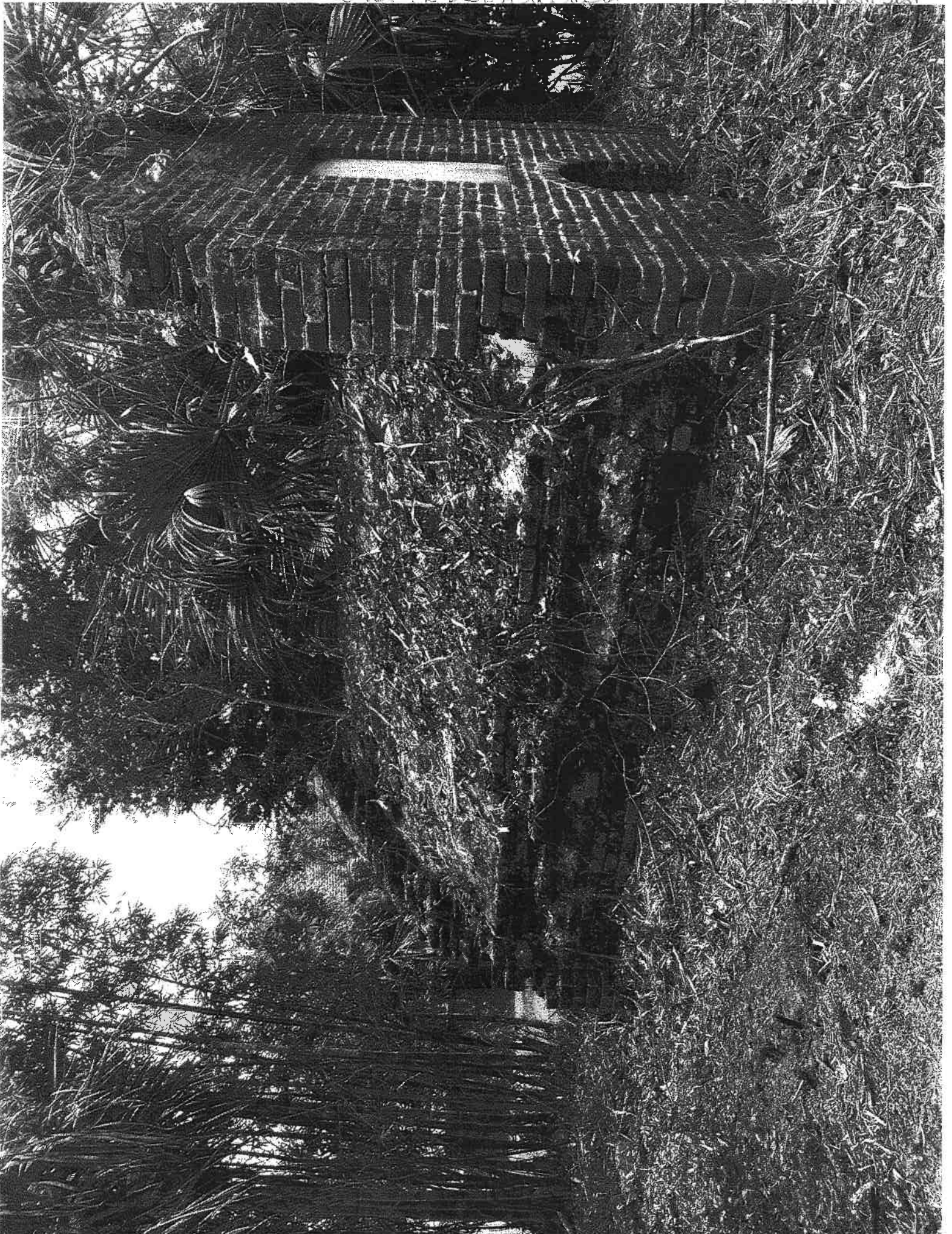
<sup>60</sup> "Falligant Buys Screven Island" *Savannah Evening Press*, September 20, 1947. No page number.

REF. 5





Color as recorded See Boyer Mausoleum Best



## THE BRYAN FAMILY TREE

Joseph Bryan m. Janet Cochran  
(c. 1670-1732/3) ( -1708)  
of St. Paul's Parish,  
Colleton Co, SC

Jonathan Bryan m. (1737) Mary Williamson  
(1708-1788) (1722 -1781)  
of "Brampton",  
Chatham Co, GA

Josiah Bryan m. (1770) Elizabeth Pendarvis  
(1746-1774) (1755 -1804)

Congressman Joseph Bryan m. (1805) Delia Forman  
(1773-1812) (1788-1825)

Thomas

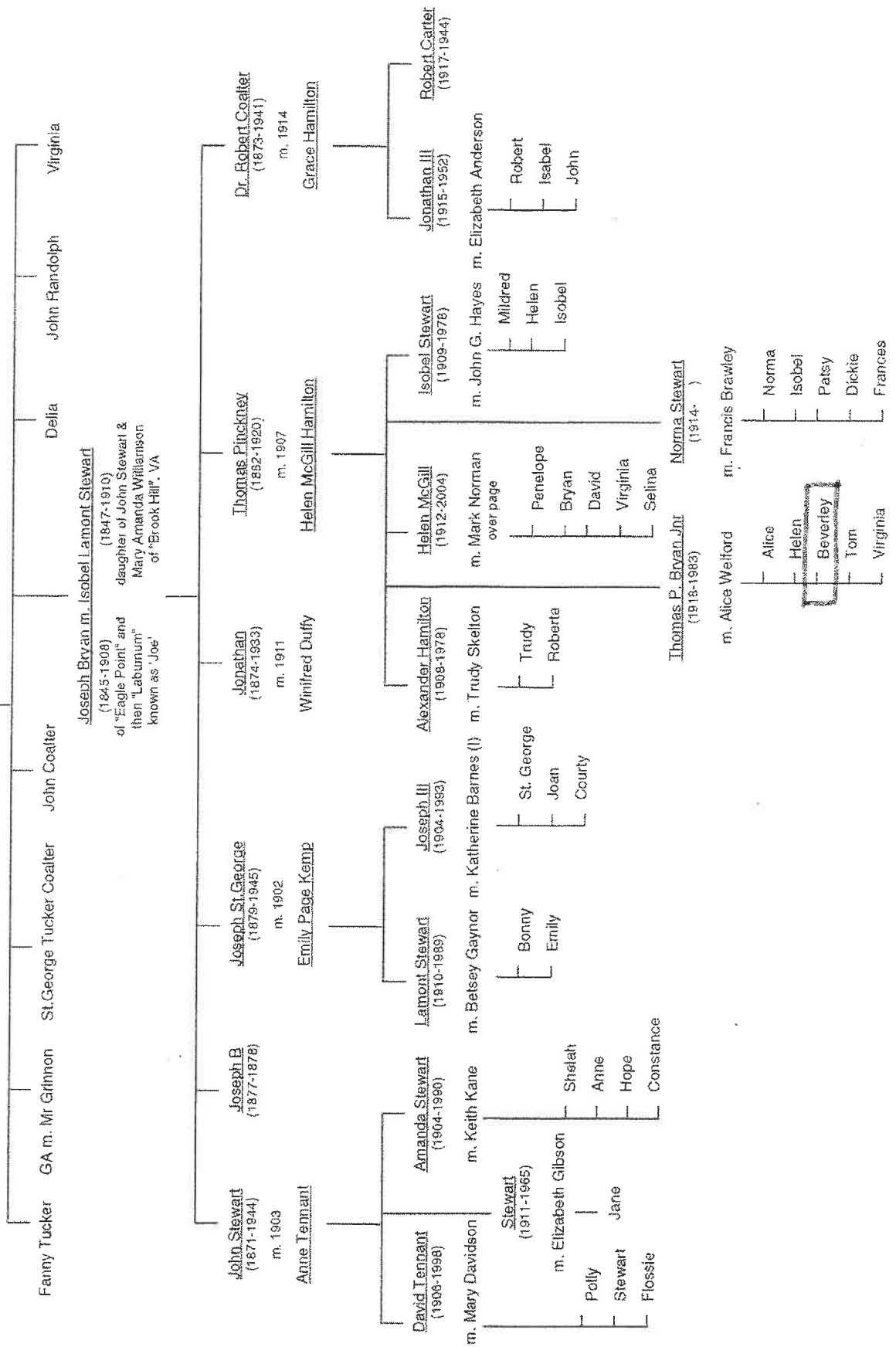
Virginia

Joseph

Georgia

John Randolph Bryan m. (1830) Elizabeth Coalter  
(1806-1887) (1805 -1856)  
b. in GA in "Nonchalance"  
Bought "Carysbrook" in Fluvanna  
Co, VA 1845 and sold it 1879  
of "Eagle Point" in  
Gloucester, VA

John Randolph Bryan m. Elizabeth Tucker Coalter



REF. 7



# Chatham County – Savannah Comprehensive Plan

## Community Assessment Report

March, 2006



<b>Table 8.4 Back Barrier Islands Historic Resource Inventory</b>	
<b>WILMINGTON ISLAND</b>	
<b>Residential</b>	
1. 2226 East Boulevard 1938	8. 1540 Wilmington Island Road ca 1895
2. 2228 East Boulevard 1910	9. 1530 Wilmington Island Road ca 1895
3. 2309 East Boulevard 1928	10. 1710 Wilmington Island Rd ca 1900
4. E. Boulevard between Kessel and Land Streets ca 1930	11. 1728 Wilmington Island Road 1930
5. 2122 Walthour Road ca 1930	12. 1724 Wilmington Island Rd pre 1893
6. 2308 Walthour Road 1930	13. 1320 Wilmington Island Rd ca 1910 stable
7. 1806 Wilmington Island Road 1930	
<b>Commercial</b>	
14. 618 Wilmington Island Road a. 1910	15. 612 Wilmington Island Road 1927
<b>Rural</b>	
16. 47 Morningside Drive ca 1881	17. Dogwood & Wilmington Island Rd. Silo ca 1920
<b>WHITEMARSH ISLAND</b>	
<b>Residential</b>	
18. Turner's Rock Demere House, ca 1930	
<b>Institutional</b>	
19. Johnny Mercer and Saffold Field Confederate earthwork redan and redoubt, 1861	21 Turner's Rock Confederate battery, ca 1861
20. Battery Circle 1861, Gibson's Point Battery	
<b>TALAHI ISLAND</b>	
<b>Archaeological and Cultural</b>	
22. 243 Falligant Ave. Bryan Cemetery ca 1812	
<b>OATLAND ISLAND</b>	
<b>Institutional</b>	
23. 711 Sandtown Road 1927	
<b>MCQUEEN'S ISLAND</b>	
<b>Transportation</b>	
24. U. S. 80 4.5 mile palm-lined drive ca 1920's	25. U. S. 80 8-mile segment Tybee RR r-o-w ca 1890
<b>COCKSPUR ISLAND</b>	
<b>Institutional</b>	
26. Fort Pulaski national Monument 1829-1847 National Register	28. South Channel Savannah River 18th C. light house
27 Battery Hambright ca 1890's.	
<b>Archaeological and Cultural</b>	
29. John Wesley Memorial 20th century	
<b>CAUSTEN'S BLUFF and vicinity</b>	
<b>Institutional</b>	
30. #1 Fort Jackson Road Fort Jackson, National Landmark, 1808	32. Savannah River CSS Georgia national Register 1861
31. Causten Bluff Sub. Confederate Battery, ca 1861	





























