

DATA SHEET

PHO 697 940

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 26 1979

DATE ENTERED APR 24 1979

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

Dr. James S. Hamilton House (Alpha Delta Pi Sorority House)

AND/OR COMMON

Alpha Delta Pi Sorority House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

150 South Milledge Avenue

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Athens

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Tenth - D. D. Barnard

STATE

Georgia

CODE

13

COUNTY

Clarke

CODE

059

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

__DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

__STRUCTURE

__SITE

__OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

__PUBLIC

X PRIVATE

__BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

__IN PROCESS

__BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED

__UNOCCUPIED

__WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

X YES: RESTRICTED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__NO

PRESENT USE

__AGRICULTURE

__COMMERCIAL

__EDUCATIONAL

__ENTERTAINMENT

__GOVERNMENT

__INDUSTRIAL

__MILITARY

__MUSEUM

__PARK

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__RELIGIOUS

__SCIENTIFIC

__TRANSPORTATION

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Beta Nu Chapter, Alpha Delta Pi Sorority ✓

STREET & NUMBER

150 South Milledge Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Athens

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clarke County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Athens

STATE

Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Clarke County

DATE

1975

__FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Dept. of Natural Resources, History Preservation Section

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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The James Hamilton House is an eclectic style structure, built between 1857 and 1861. The house is two-and-a-half stories in height, five bays across the front, and four bays deep. The main block is covered by a simple gable roof with overhanging eaves and is flanked by two pairs of interior chimneys. A one-story cast iron porch extends along the front facade of the structure, as well as along its two sides. The interior plan of the building is four-over-four, with a central stair hall.

Rather than its basic house forms, however, the extraordinary features of the Hamilton House are its eclectic features which are a combination of Federal and Greek Revival stylings. The most prominent features of the house are its cast iron porch columns, railings, and decorative grillwork. Their style is a combination of Gothic, Classical, and Byzantine motifs. The Gothic columns have octagonal bases, clustered colonettes, and foliated capitals. The porch railing is a popular Victorian geometric pattern with foliated cusps, connected by foliated bosses. The decorative grillwork is a more freely flowing foliated classical pattern, framed within variations on saracenic arches. The underside of the porch cornice is decorated with a shallow, classical grillwork. It extends along the entire length of the porch. Each column location is accented by a stylized acanthus leaf located above the cornice line.

The other prominent features of the house are the overhanging eaves and the triangular pedimented gable ends supported by Italianate-style brackets with pendant drops. The brackets frame the underside of the eaves and are a strong three-dimensional architectural element, which, in combination with the cast iron porch, alter the planar aspects of the simple block house from beneath. The four large chimneys with their raked stacks are a prominent feature of the structure's skyline and stand in contrast to the low profile of the roof line.

More subtle architectural features include the use of stone lintels over the windows and main entrance, a Greek Revival main entrance with a framing pilaster, rectangular side lights, trabeated overlights, a Palladian window opening on the second floor above the main entrance, a balancing effect of the louvered shutters to the exterior wall proportions, and large floor-to-ceiling windows on the main floor.

The house is constructed of load-bearing masonry walls, stuccoed on the exterior and plastered on the interior. The structural members timber, and they span between the exterior walls and the load-bearing central hall walls. The roof is supported by timber trusses located above the half-story level. These are covered by metal panels.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Marsh, Kenneth. Athens: Georgia's Columned City (Asheville, N. C., 1964)
- Davis, William C., The Columns of Athens: Georgia's Classic City (Atlanta, 1951)
- Hull A.L., Annals of Athens Georgia, 1801-1901 (Athens, 1906)
- Ms. Patricia Cooper, July 27, 1976-supplied copy of receipt of purchase for ornamental ironwork, original in possession of Paul Hodgson, Athens, Georgia. Clarke County Tax Digest & Deed Records.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.98 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Athens West, Georgia

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,7 | 2,7,9 | 2,8,0 | 3,7 | 5,9 | 4,7,0

B | | | | |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | |

D | | | | |

E | | | | |

F | | | | |

G | | | | |

H | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All the tract of land shown on the current tax map of the city of Athens, Sheet number 12-2-B-4 parcel J-4 fronting 182 feet on South Milledge on the northeast side of the property, forming a rectangle with the SE and NW sides being 475 feet in length

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Howard L. Preston, The History Group, Inc. Atlanta, Georgia

Kenneth H. Thomas Jr., Historic Preservation Section, Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

May 1978

Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Room 701 270 Washington St., S. W.

404-656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Atlanta

Georgia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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 A. Lyon

TITLE

Elizabeth A. Lyon, Ph.D.

DATE

10/11/78

Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

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

Charles Arthur

DATE

4-24-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Bill Tolson

DATE

April 24, 1979

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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The central entrance hall is wide. It serves the structure as a space for social gatherings as well as for general circulation purposes. The hall cornice is a simple moulded design, and the ceiling is decorated with a plaster chandelier boss. The stair is located to the left rear of the hall door where it turns and rises again toward the front of the house. The tapered octagonal newel post, with a turned flared cap and a mahogany railing and banister, are still in place. They extend to the third floor in an open stairwell.

The primary rooms to the left of the central stair are double parlors or drawing rooms, separated by sliding panel doors. These rooms are identical in size, decorations, and arrangement. Each has a fireplace centered between the two exterior windows. Dual windows are also opposite the connecting doorway. These rooms have an elaborate high relief plaster cornice in a Classical floral pattern, framed within a moulded border on both the wall and the ceiling. A heavily plastered and foliated chandelier boss decorates the center ceiling of each of these drawing rooms.

The primary rooms located to the right of the entrance hall on the first floor have been modified. They are reported to have been a drawing room on the front and a dining room on the rear.

The second floor has also been altered. Bathroom and closet space have been added. The original interior arrangement, however, remains strongly regulated by the load bearing interior walls. The most drastic alteration of the interior space on the second floor is the addition of a bathroom at the front of the central hall. It occupies half of the original hall space. The interior details of the second floor bedrooms have been removed, and the fireplace has been sealed and plastered. The third floor remains unaltered.

The later use of the house as a sorority necessitated the construction of dormitory space in the rear. This addition extends straight back from the rear of the structure. It is not easily visible from the front of the building. A dining room addition is in keeping with the style, scale, and color composition of the house, so any adverse visual effect is minimized.

The house is set far back from the street on a lot with many trees. Many of these trees are very old hardwoods and magnolias which add to the structure's distinctiveness and serve to buff the noise created from automobile and pedestrian traffic on South Milledge Avenue. The house, in effect, has very much retained its original landscape setting. The gardens and landscaping of the home were mentioned as one of Georgia's most significant gardens in Loraine M. Cooney's Garden History of Georgia.

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Crane started work on the structure in 1857, but it was not until 1861, when the ornamental ironwork trim on the exterior of the house was added, that the house was completed. The ironwork was manufactured in the Wood-Perot Foundry in Philadelphia in 1860 and then shipped to Athens via Savannah just prior to the outbreak of the American Civil War and the Federal blockade of southern ports. Hamilton selected the style-no. 38- from a catalog, placed his order in November 1860, and received shipment the following January. Its price was \$2,100.00.

The Hamiltons had nine children, several of whom were born after this house was built. All of the children grew up at this home, making it an active domestic center as the Civil War approached and the life they had grown accustomed to was to change so drastically.

Dr. Hamilton and his family weathered the Civil War here and he died here in 1888. After Mrs. Hamilton's death in 1896, a court suit ensued among the heirs and creditors. Dr. Hamilton had willed the house and factory to his wife and children jointly and the estate had lost money over the years due to mismanagement. His son-in-law, S. Guyton McLendon (husband of Emily Hamilton and later Georgia's Secretary of State) effectively broke the will in a law suit. As a result of this suit, the house was sold at a Sheriff's auction on the courthouse steps, the first Tuesday in October, 1900. The house was purchased by the five daughters for \$10,836.00. These daughters lived here for several years until they decided that it was too large a home to maintain.

At the time of the sale, the house was described as being located on approximately eight acres and having "a brick dwelling containing 14 large rooms, besides closets, pantrys, etc. Covered in tin in good order. Also a large kitchen, also a smoke house, also a two room servants house, also a corn crib, also carriage house and stables and all in good repair and constituting the most elegant and desirable home in the city of Athens".

This description is in marked contrast to the condition recalled by the new owners. About 1906-7 Edward Reginald Hodgson, III (later Junior) (1871-1967) and his wife Mary Arthur McCullough (1881-1967), who married in 1905, bought the house, then still the only one on the block. Mr. Hodgson found the house in bad repair with pigeons flying inside. He spent a year repairing the premises. As part of this effort, he tore down the outbuildings, put in granite frontstairs and electricity and running water.

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Mr. Hodgson was president of the Empire State Chemical Company, a fertilizer firm, and he and his wife had three sons born here. This was their home for nearly thirty-five years, and while there, was the scene of at least one wedding, as well as their daughter's wedding reception in 1927.

The Hodgson family had come to Athens in 1839 having migrated to the United States from England in 1836. They had long been involved with the stagecoach business in Athens, and also the establishment of Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

Having continued to live in this house, the Hodgsons sold it on July 1, 1939 for \$27,500 to the Beta Nu Trustees, Incorporated, representing the Alpha Delta Pi Sorority. The sorority continues to own and maintain the house as a dormitory and chapter house, using it for meetings and social events.

From an architectural point of view, the house is an excellent example of eclectic residential architecture popular in the state of Georgia during the mid-nineteenth century. Only a limited number of homes remain that retain the cast-iron porches as does this structure. The Hamilton house ranks high among these due to the quality of design of the ironwork in relation to the overall plan and styling. Locally, as an example of the work of Ross Crane (the most prominent local antebellum architect) it is significant. Historically, the role of the owners of the house in the development of Athens is significant in that the house reflects the type of place chosen and built by an antebellum industrialist at the peak of his career. Despite his wealth Hamilton chose a local man to build his home, and by so doing helped to influence the architectural development of the town. The house is also significant as an example of the adaptive use of older structures in its approximately 40 years as a sorority chapter house.

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- Marshall, Charlotte T. Oconee Hill Cemetery (Athens, 1971)
Centennial Catalog of the Trustees, Officers, and Alumni of the University of Georgia...1785-1885 (Athens, 1885)(biographical sketch of James S. Hamilton)
Gordon, Hugh H., Jr. The Family of Edward Reginald Hodgson and Mary Virginia Strahan (Athens, 1953)
Sketch of James S. Hamilton in Georgia and Florida: Biographical Souvenir Sketches (1889)
Sheriff's Sale Notice, The Weekly Banner, Athens, Ga. 9-14-1900, p. 8:7
Cooney, Loraine M. Garden History of Georgia 1733-1933 (Atlanta, 1933)