

MARSHALLVILLE AND MACON COUNTY MULTIPLE RESOURCE NOMINATION  
ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

No. 8

ref 480004449

IDENTIFICATION

Property Name Willow Lake Historic Name Willow Lake  
Street Address Route 1 City Marshallville inc County Macon  
Present Owner Ruth and Elia Grice; Samuel Grice;  
Samuel R. Benning Street Address Route 1  
City Marshallville State Georgia ZIP Code 31057  
Original Owner Samuel Henry Rumph Acreage 960  
U.S.G.S. Quadrant Marshallville, Ga. 1:24000 U.T.M. Reference A) Z.17 E.227140 N.3598165  
B) Z.17 E.229320 N.3598120  
C) Z.17 E.229235 N.3595400  
Tax Map Reference 14th District; Map 102; Parcel 7 D) Z.17 E.227040 N.3595460

Architectural Description and Present Condition: Willow Lake is almost square in plan, with a central door with transom and sidelights, a central hall, and tall thin windows. The porch trim and brick chimneys are Victorian in character, however. Willow Lake is frame with a hipped roof and two side bays. Inside there are 13 rooms, most with 15' ceilings, and several of the original lighting pieces remain. The grounds are spacious and fronted by a stone gate and iron fence. Most of the outbuildings appear to be later additions and  
(continued)

HISTORY

Current Use Residence and Farm Historic Use Residence and Farm  
Construction Date 1875-80 Architect/Builder \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Alterations 1952

Historical Narrative: In the 1870's, while in his teens, Samuel H. Rumph began experimenting with peach varieties at Willow Lake, land he inherited from his father. About 1875 he developed the Elberta peach, a large, firm, freestone, and also began construction on his house at Willow Lake. By 1880 he had also developed a refrigerated shipping crate and became the first Georgian to ship peaches commercially to the North. From his Willow Lake Nursery, Rumph shipped peach, apple, pear, plum, and berry trees all over the U.S., while his orchard had over 65,000 trees. Rumph continued living at Willow Lake until his 1904  
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SIGNIFICANCE

Agriculture; Architecture;  
Areas of Significance Commerce; Invention Statement of Significance: Willow Lake is probably the most significant property within the MRA. Samuel H. Rumph's development of the Elberta Peach and a refrigerated packing crate began the commercial fruit industry in Georgia and spurred the prosperity in Marshallville that lasted until WWI. His achievements as a horticulturalist are world renowned and reflect the general interest throughout the Marshallville vicinity in agriculture, horticulture, and landscape architecture. Architecturally, Willow Lake reflects a blending of the symmetry of earlier vernacular and Greek Revival styles with the decorative embellishments of the Victorian era.

SOURCES

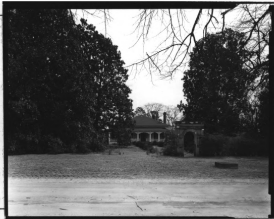
Prepared by Ruth Grice Street Address Route 1  
City Marshallville State Georgia Date 8/14/79  
Representation in Other Surveys None

Sources of Information:

Hays, Louise Frederick. History of Macon County, Georgia. Originally published 1933. Reprinted 1979. Spartanburg, SC: The Reprint Company.

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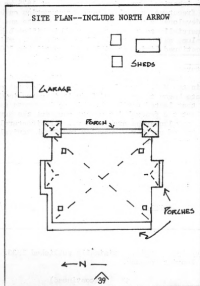
SEP 16 1980  
NOV 25 1980



Photographer James R. Lockhart Direction Photographer Facing East

Date March 1980 Negatives on File Georgia Dept. of Natural Resource

Photograph Number 39 of 41.



#### CONTINUATION

#### DESCRIPTION

although the land is still farmed, it is no longer a nursery or orchard. In 1952 the house was altered, closing off part of the central hall. Good condition.

#### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

move into town (Rumph-Myers House). Willow Lake is still lived in by Rumph's grandchildren.

#### SOURCES

- Hays, Louise Frederick. The Rumph and Frederick Families. Published privately, 1941.
- Smith, Gerald J. John Donald Wade: A Critical Biography. Dissertation. University of Georgia. March 1977.
- "Willow Lake Nursery." Marshallville Times. 24 August 1888.
- Shattuck, Bernie. "Out of a Sewing Basket- the Elberta." Progressive Farmer. April 1955.