

PH011 2755

10th Congressional District  
Robert G. Stephens, Jr.

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia	
COUNTY: Wilkes	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	87

1. NAME

COMMON:  
West Robert Toombs District

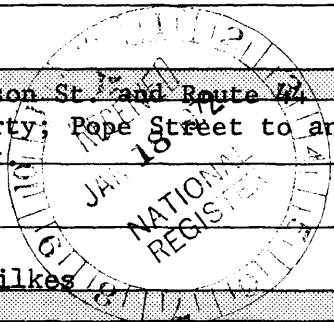
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

W. Robt. Toombs Ave. between Allison St. and Route 42  
STREET AND NUMBER: Lexington Ave. west to Burt property; Pope Street to and including corner of Liberty Street.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Wilkes CODE: 317



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Multiple Owners

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Office of Clerk of Superior Court, Wilkes County

STREET AND NUMBER: Court Street

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Washington Comprehensive Plan, Historic Area Study

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Georgia Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: 116 Mitchell Street

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Georgia

COUNTY: Wilkes

ENTRY NUMBER: 873

DATE: MAR 1 1970

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The residential district west of the business district of Washington is more varied architecturally than that to the east, but like the comparable section of East Robert Toombs Avenue, it forms a major entrance into the town. The road from Lexington and Athens leads south and east from the town limits to a place where a change of direction in the roadway and a density of foliage marks the beginning of the residential area leading into town. This point is also the junction with Route 44 from Greensboro and Union Point to the southwest. It is marked, in addition, by a triangular green space called Jesse Mercer Park. A Georgia Historical Commission marker here indicates the importance of this man both to Washington and to the Baptist denomination in Georgia. This small green space with its tall trees is a visual introduction to the area beyond, which despite the intrusion of a few filling stations, has remained largely residential.

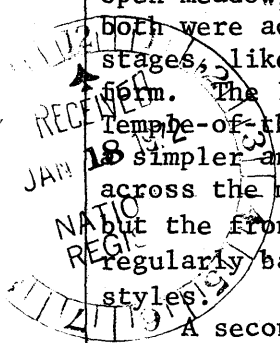
The West Robert Toombs area today suggests its varied and interesting development over a long period of time by the mixture of styles in its houses. The town end of the street is graced by an ante-bellum Greek Revival structure of outstanding architectural quality, the Tupper-Barnett House. At the other end of the area is a fine example of the High Victorian period, the Barksdale-Burt House. In between are several good examples of ante-bellum and classic revival homes, a few large Victorian structures and a row of smaller, late nineteenth-century cottages.

The Tupper-Barnett House with its handsome divided stairway leading above a daylight basement to a monumental Doric portico is a recognized and important landmark. Less well-known, but of comparable architectural interest, is the late nineteenth-century Barksdale-Burt House. Designed in 1893 by Gottfried L. Norrman, a prominent Atlanta architect, it is also a two-story frame house, painted white, that is elaborated by classical details. The irregularly massed forms, multiple roof lines and asymmetry of its plan are quite different from the classical regularity and symmetrical balance of the Tupper-Barnett House. The Barksdale-Burt House exemplifies that movement in late nineteenth-century American architecture called picturesque eclecticism. It is picturesque in its asymmetry and irregularity, while the eclecticism is present in the Palladian window with its inserts of stained glass, the small scale Tuscan columns that support the porch roofs and the vaguely classical entablature running around the top below the cornice lines of the multiple roof sections. The shape of the molded brick chimneys is characteristic of other Norrman houses that were built in Atlanta.

On the north side of the street toward town from the Barksdale-Burt House, almost hidden from view in a grove of water oaks, cedars and magnolias, is the Irvin-Orr House. Beyond it, past a service station and across an open meadow, is the M.P. Pope Home. The colonnades across the facades of both were added in the late nineteenth century, but both have grown in stages, like so many Washington houses, until they reached a Greek Revival form. The Irvin-Orr House is distinguished by a portico of four unusual Temple-of-the-Winds Corinthian columns which, it is reported, were added to a simpler and earlier two-story frame house in the 1880's. A side view across the meadow of the M.P. Pope House suggests a multi-stage development, but the front facade with its monumental six-column portico displays the regularly balanced form and sense of grandeur sought in classical revival styles.

A second Victorian house of interest further along this side of the

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Georgia	
COUNTY	Wilkes	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	MAR 1	DATE
		1973

(Number all entries)

7. Description

street near the Tupper-Barnett House is the Hill-Harris House, called the New Haywood because of its location on the site of an earlier ante-bellum structure of that name. Its rambling wooden forms and corner octagonal turret are generally Queen Anne in character while the piling up of spool ornament and scroll-work brackets and posts are Eastlake. The whole makes a truly picturesque and eclectic pile.

The south side of West Robert Toombs Avenue complements the architectural variety of the north side with Victorian structures of one and two stories, as well as columned houses. The most notable of these is the Morris House, which was, in the 1850's, the Planters Hotel. It is a two-story, clapboard, plantation-plain style building with Federal details onto which a Doric portico has been grafted by extending the gable roof to the line of the columns.

In order to include some nearby structures of interest, the boundaries of the West Robert Toombs District have been extended from that defined in 1968 by the Washington Comprehensive Plan south along Pope Street to its intersection with Liberty Street. These structures which stand on three corners of this intersection are the Prince-Pope-Stephens House, the Lane-Cheney House and the Shepherd-St. Gaudens-Standard House. The Stephens House on the southwest corner is a major example of the multi-stage development pattern of Washington houses, distinguished by its Victorian period interior remodeling and its fine Beaux-arts portico. Across Pope Street from this house is the Lane-Cheney House, built in 1821 and enlarged between 1833 and 1878. The Shepherd-St. Gaudens-Standard House, a generally Federal style home of about 1815 with later additions and details, originally faced West Robert Toombs Avenue but was later moved back to its present location diagonally across Liberty Street from the Stephens home.

The variety in style and scale of these houses of the West Robert Toombs District is contained within a setting of tall trees and vegetation. The characteristic Washington foliage of water oaks helps to define the area of this district as well as of the town as a whole.



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) C. 1790- 1900

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>History</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Important examples of both ante-bellum and late nineteenth-century architecture still stand in the West Robert Toombs District despite the recent intrusion of filling stations into this otherwise predominantly residential area on the western side of the business district of Washington. In addition to a significant concentration of historic structures, this section of the street contains sites which have played a role in state and local history.

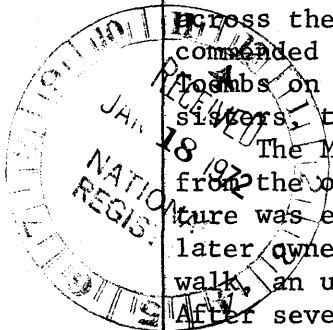
The Tupper-Barnett House, which has been selected for separate nomination to the National Register, is a landmark of both architectural and historical significance. Its magnificent Doric portico that completely encircles the older body of the house is one of the finest in the area. It was built c. 1860 for Henry Allen Tupper, the noted Baptist minister who served the church from 1853 to 1872 before leaving for Richmond, Virginia, to become corresponding secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Baptist Convention. The Georgia Historical Commission marker which stands in the front yard also informs the visitor that Tupper was the grandfather of the wife of General George Marshall, originator of the Marshall Plan.

Separated in time as well as by the length of the street from the Tupper-Barnett House is the Barksdale-Burt House. This late Victorian home is an example of the work of Gottfried L. Norrman, a late nineteenth-century Atlanta architect of note. Norrman's work in Atlanta, now unfortunately much depleted by demolition, is only now beginning to receive deserved attention.

Other notable architectural examples on the street include the Irvin-Orr, the M. P. Pope and Hill-Harris houses. The Irvin-Orr House was once a large plantation lived in by Duncon G. Campbell and Captain Charles E. Irvin. Irvin added the rarely seen Temple-of-the-Winds Corinthian columns across the front of an earlier structure in the 1880's. Captain Irvin, commended for bravery during the Civil War, is known for his help to Robert Toombs on his escape from Washington in 1864. Later occupied by three Irvin sisters, the home is now owned by a descendent, Mrs. C. H. Orr.

The M. P. Pope House was built by Dr. Felix Hay in 1825 using materials from the old Masonic Temple which stood further up the street. This structure was enlarged and improved by Thomas Berry, who bought it in 1831, and later owned by Epatha Rees Bowdre, who is supposed to have added the widow's walk, an unusual feature in the South, especially in an inland location. After several alterations the building now has a Doric colonnade. It became the Pope home in 1866 when purchased by W. H. Pope, a son of Alexander Pope, and is presently owned by Mrs. M. P. Pope. This house is of interest because of its association with prominent Washington families, its

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Eliza Bowen, The Story of Wilkes County, Georgia (Marietta, 1950).  
 Georgia Writer's Project, W.P.A., The Story of Washington-Wilkes (Athens, 1941).  
 Robert Marion Willingham, We Have This Heritage (Washington-Wilkes, 1969).  
 Willis C. Lindsey, Sr., Homes and Sites of the Residents of Washington-Wilkes County, Georgia, compiled 1953-1958.  
 Willis C. Lindsey, Sr., A History of Washington, Wilkes County, Georgia, typewritten bound manuscript.  
 Grace Gilliam Davidson, Early Records of Wilkes County, Georgia, I, II (Macon, 1932).  
 Frederick D. Nichols, The Early Architecture of Georgia (Chapel Hill, 1957).  
 Elizabeth A. Lyon, personal inspection, July, September, 1971.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

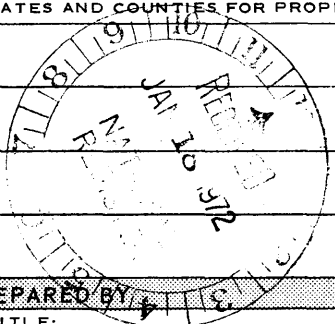
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	33° 44' 20"	82° 45' 12"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	33° 44' 20"	82° 44' 27"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	33° 44' 01"	82° 44' 27"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	33° 44' 01"	82° 45' 12"		° ' "	° ' "	

NO UTM  
CY

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **72 acres**

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY:**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Dr. Elizabeth A. Lyon, consultant, Washington-Wilkes Historic Foundation**

ORGANIZATION: **Department of the History of Art** DATE: **October 25, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Emory University**

CITY OR TOWN: **Atlanta** STATE: **Georgia** CODE: **13**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Mary Gregory Jewell

Title State Liaison Officer

Date January 12, 1972 and Feb. 9, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert H. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/1/73

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 2-27-73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Georgia	
COUNTY	Wilkes	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		MAR 1 1973

(Number all entries)

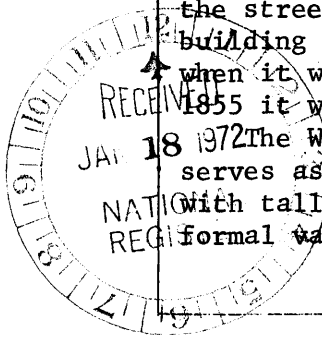
8. Significance

unusual widow's walk feature and its setting in formal gardens of boxwood.

The Hill-Harris House stands on the site of a home built by Dr. Gilbert Hay, father of Felix and one of the earliest important physicians in Washington. This earlier white-columned house known as Haywood subsequently became the home of Judge Garnett Andrews, a long-time judge of the Superior Court. Andrews was a Union sympathizer during the Civil War who was yet highly respected for the sincerity of his convictions. He is also known for a small book called Reminiscences of an Old Time Georgia Lawyer, while his daughter, Eliza Frances, who wrote The War Time Journal of a Georgia Girl, was later elected to the International Academy of Letters and Science. Their home no longer stands, having been replaced by the New Haywood, a rambling Victorian home.

One of the most well-known as well as interesting figures who lived and worked in this section of Washington was Jesse Mercer. The Georgia Historical Marker in the small triangular green space near the entrance to the district commemorates his importance, both to the town and to the state. Jesse Mercer, the son of Reverend Silas Mercer, a Baptist preacher who moved to Wilkes County in the 1770's and founded several pioneer churches, was for many years the pastor of Philips Mill Baptist Church in southwest Wilkes County and later the first pastor of the Washington Baptist Church. With his second wife, Nancy Simons, a wealthy widow, he made large gifts to Mercer Institute at Penfield Georgia (now Mercer College, Macon). In addition he published in Washington a popular hymn book and in later years the Christian Index. He had his home near the spot of the marker on what is now the Academy site, and before his residence had been the location of the first Wilkes Academy in 1784, a place where church services were held before there were any church buildings in Washington. This spot was later the location of a Catholic school and orphanage. The present building, now occupied by the Wilkes Academy of 1971, was built in 1932.

The history of the West Robert Toombs area is particularly interesting because its mixed land use pattern so well exemplifies the customs of earlier days when business and home were not separated into residential and commercial districts as they are in both large and small urban areas today. In addition to housing various locations of the Baptist publishing and printing office, this district also provided the location of the printing offices of The Monitor, the early Washington newspaper that was published by David, and later his wife Sarah, Hillhouse. This was located on a lot between Depot and Mercer Streets known as the printing house lot. Also, on the south side of the street is the Morris House, which Samuel Gardiner built in 1824. This building served as a tavern and inn from the 1820's through to the 1850's, when it was widely known as the Planters Hotel. When the hotel was sold in 1855 it was described as a house and acreage with stables and outhouses. The West Robert Toombs District is interesting for its variety which serves as a setting for the major structures within it. The street is lined with tall water oak trees that provide continuity for this stylistic and formal variety.



STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA  
 DIVISION OF HIGHWAY PLANNING  
 IN COOPERATION WITH  
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

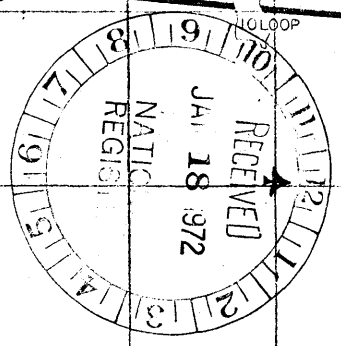
CITY MAP  
**WASHINGTON**  
 WILKES COUNTY

SCALE IN FEET  
 0 660 1320

POPULATION 4440 (1960)  
 1969

G.M.D. 84

G.M.D. 79



82° 45' 12"

82° 44' 27"

33° 44' 30"

33° 44' 01"

