

PH0094668

10th Congressional District

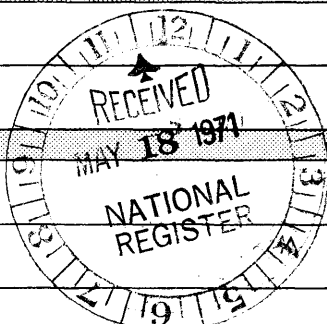
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

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 70.5.10.0011	DATE 5/13/70



1. NAME

COMMON:
Washington-Wilkes Historical Museum

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Barnett-Slaton House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
308 East Robert Toombs Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

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

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <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 type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Georgia Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
116 Mitchell Street, S.W.

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Wilkes County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: Georgia	CODE 13
-----------------------------	-------------------	------------

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
---------------	--------	------

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Georgia
COUNTY: Wilkes
ENTRY NUMBER 70.5.10.0011
DATE 5/13/70

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In 1957 soon after the town of Washington-Wilkes decided to deed the Barnett Slaton House to the Georgia Historical Commission, the Commission's expert architectural consultant, Thomas G. Little, wrote: "The building is in a relatively pure state of preservation." In this same evaluation - a report on the value of the building for development as an historic house museum - Little said:

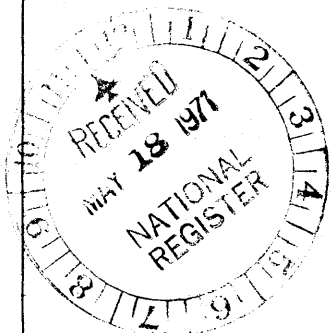
The structure consists of two or more periods. The earlier house consisted of that portion in rear of the present stair hall. Its plan consisted of one large room opening onto a front porch and rear porch, stair and entrance hall at present bathroom area and a room with fireplace in rear. A leanto addition was added next, giving this floor four rooms with porches. At still a later period the present front stair hall and rooms were added with porches. All of these major additions were made prior to The War Between The States and are certainly worthy of complete restoration.

Mr. Little's recommendations were accepted and he was put in charge of renovation and restoration. This took place under two separate contracts, the first in 1958 and the second in 1962. (A third contract to restore a Greek Revival style parapet at the front elevation cornice line will be let at some future date.)

Today the structure is basically as it was in 1857, a white frame two-story house on a high basement, with 18 rooms, numerous hallways and a total of 13 doors opening onto numerous porches. Restoration of the front and two side porches to their original appearance as Downingesque trellis-work verandas was especially important. They unify the large structure, merging the two clapboarded and shuttered cubes into one composition. And not a Greek or Roman column in sight!

The ground floor has been restored as a kitchen and storage area, including a dry well. The main floor, a sort of "piano nobile" reached by a flight of stairs, has a wide hall, furnished double parlors, dining room and bedroom. On the second floor is an important collection of Civil War relics. The museum grounds have been landscaped to recapture the spirit of antebellum gardens and gardening.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

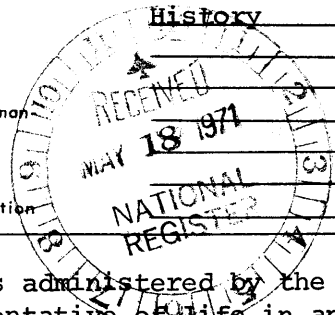
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1835; c. 1857; restoration 1958, 1962

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 checked="" 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

The Washington-Wilkes Historical Museum is administered by the Georgia Historical Commission as a house museum representative of life in ante-bellum Georgia. Perhaps no other city in Georgia would be so appropriate for such a museum. The small city of Washington, spared from Sherman's torch, is replete with beautiful homes of the ante-bellum period. The lovely house furnishings, the landscaped grounds and a fine collection of Civil War relics and other exhibits provide visitors with a constant reminder of life in a bygone era.

The earliest section of the house was built around 1835 or 1836 by Albert Gallatin Semmes on land once owned by Micajah Williamson, one of the founders of Washington. In 1836 Semmes sold the property, dwelling and outbuildings to Mrs. Mary Sneed for \$4500. Samuel Barnett, Georgia's first Railroad Commissioner and an important figure in Washington's business community, acquired the property and surrounding 100 acres in 1857. Mr. Barnett greatly enlarged the house with the addition of the front rooms, hallways and the present staircase. The house remained in the Barnett family until 1913 at which time the property was divided and sold separately. The house and present lot went to William Armstrong Slaton whose family lived here until 1955. The City of Washington acquired the house shortly thereafter and deeded it to the State. Thomas G. Little, historical architect, planned and directed the restoration of the house.

The main floor of the house is furnished as a double parlor, dining room and bedroom; the lovely antiques are typical of those found in fine Georgia homes of the mid-19th century. The ground floor has been restored as a kitchen and storage area, including a dry well. Included in the exhibits here are kitchen utensils and other household equipment used in ante-bellum life. On the second floor is a collection of Civil War relics, one of the finest in the South. Completing this view of southern living, the grounds of the museum have been landscaped following an early garden plan and using plants typical of the ante-bellum period.

However, the casual visitor used to such books as White Columns in Georgia probably does not think the completed overall picture is "typical of the antebellum period." Standing not in fields of cotton but at the edge of the old village limits, the museum is an architectural storehouse reflecting the evolution of a settled community from the late 18th century until the time of the Civil War. Having grown by accretion into a comfortable unpretentious mansion house, it shows the hands of carpenters and the ideas of owners working in a long standing craft tradition. Details in fashionable architectural styles from the Federal to the Downingsque merely embellish the basic four square simplicity of two weatherboarded and shuttered cubes.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Files and Documents, Georgia Historical Commission.

Little, Thomas G., "Preliminary Inspection Report on the W.A. Slaton House, Washington, Georgia," September 4, 1957

Mitchell, William R., Jr., Personal Inspections.

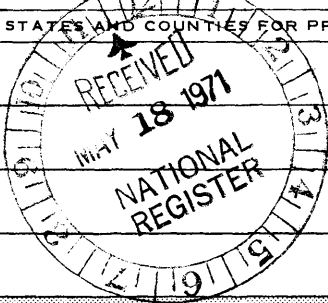
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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' 07"	82° 44' 03"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **One acre**

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 AND TITLE: **William R. Mitchell, Jr., Director, Ga. Historic Sites Survey**
Carole Summers

ORGANIZATION: **Georgia Historical Commission** DATE: **May 12, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER: **116 Mitchell St., S.W.**

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Mary Gregory Faust</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>May 12, 1971</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Ernest A. Carmally</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>5/13/70</u></p> <p>ATTEST: <u>William Mitchell</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
--	---

SEE INSTRUCTIONS