

PH0003212

10th Congressional District  
Robert G. Stephens, Jr.

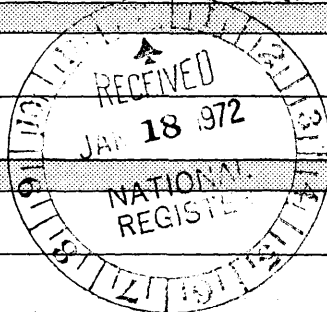
Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                   |      |
|-------------------|------|
| STATE:<br>Georgia |      |
| COUNTY:<br>Wilkes |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY  |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER      | DATE |
| APR 11 1972       |      |



1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Holly Court**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Ficklen-Lyndon-Johnson House**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**301 South Alexander Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington**

|                         |                   |                          |                    |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| STATE<br><b>Georgia</b> | CODE<br><b>13</b> | COUNTY:<br><b>Wilkes</b> | CODE<br><b>317</b> |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)  | OWNERSHIP   | STATUS  | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC   |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Structure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Museum     | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific                   |  |                                   |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Mrs. Rocheford Johnson**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**301 South Alexander Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington**

|                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| STATE:<br><b>Georgia</b> | CODE<br><b>13</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|

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:<br><b>Georgia</b> | CODE<br><b>13</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|

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:  
**Atlanta**

|                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| STATE:<br><b>Georgia</b> | CODE<br><b>13</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

|                                    |
|------------------------------------|
| STATE:<br><b>Georgia</b>           |
| COUNTY:<br><b>Wilkes</b>           |
| ENTRY NUMBER<br><b>APR 11 1972</b> |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY                   |
| DATE                               |

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

---

(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered

---

(Check One)

Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Holly Court is a two-story, white, clapboard structure that was created by the combination of two plain-style Federal period houses into a town-house during the early Greek Revival period in Georgia. Both houses, which date from the early thirties, were joined about 1840 when the building that makes up the front portion was moved to the site and connected to the existing house by a wide cross hallway. At the same time a monumental entrance portico was attached to the west facade facing Alexander Avenue. With a few minor changes this basic house stands today.

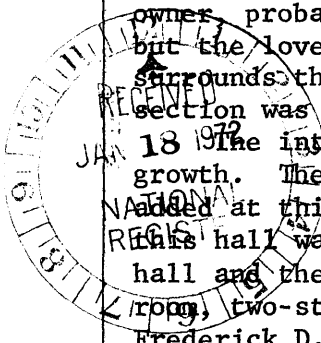
At the entrance paired and paneled Tuscan columns of square profile form a tall, narrow, pedimented portico. One-story pilasters and an architrave on the face of the building indicate where side porches were once attached to the body of the house (An old photograph documents these porches which were removed at some unknown date). Federal style details on the exterior include a plain architrave band and cornice of mutule blocks around the facade and sides of the front section, and an entrance doorway with rectangular transom and side lights framed by pilasters and entablature. As is customary in piedmont Georgia houses of the 1820's and 1830's, this treatment is echoed in the second story, but here, unlike many Washington houses the balcony above the entrance is attached to the portico columns instead of being cantilevered on brackets. The steep concrete steps replaced the original decayed stairs in 1939. A small side porch of refined, fluted Tuscan columns and dentil cornice appears to be either later than the front pillars or by a different craftsman. From the sides, the combination of the two houses which is not evident in the formal and monumental facade, is clearly visible. The high gable roof over the back portion contrasts with and is separated from the lower profile hipped roof of the front. A gable roof at right angles to these roofs, indicates the hallway section. The front or western house stands on a high basement while the back was built on a low foundation. In the back, the enlargement of one of the shed rooms into a larger kitchen, which was done in the 1940's has changed the shed projections of the original.

The gardens, which have been restored and elaborated by the present owner, probably date from the occupancy of the Burwell Ficklens after 1874, but the lovely, worn, semicircular brick wall of herringbone pattern that surrounds the front portion of the house undoubtedly was put down when this section was added in ante-bellum days.

The interior spaces of this house also reflect its two-stage, two-level growth. The rear house was built on a low foundation and the wide hall added at this level. Since Ficklen's plantation home placed in front of this hall was raised on a high basement, steps were added between the cross hall and the front entrance hall. In plan the rear house is like the four-room, two-story house with lean-to and stairway between the rear rooms that Frederick D. Nichols found to be common in the piedmont until about 1830. In this case the small shed room has, in recent times, been enlarged to create the present kitchen. The front portion of the house is a two-story, four-room plan with a central stairway hall that was also common in the period. The stairway is the conventional type which returns on itself to the upstairs hall where an elliptical arch on pilasters leads into the upstairs hall of the back portion.

The interior trim in each of the houses which make up Holly Court is different. Plain molded frames around doorways in the back contrast with

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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

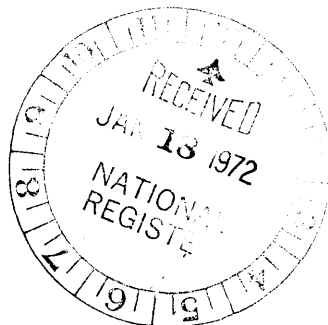
(Continuation Sheet)

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| STATE            |             |
| Georgia          |             |
| COUNTY           |             |
| Wilkes           |             |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE        |
|                  | APR 11 1972 |

(Number all entries)

**7. Description**

the more elaborately molded openings with square blocked corners in the front. Mantels in most of the rooms are simplified versions of those in the handbooks. Plain rectangular panels instead of pilasters support the entablatures over the fireplace openings. The north parlor of the front section has oval recesses where sunbursts were usually placed. The interiors of both sections then, are simplified adaptations of Federal forms.



**5. SIGNIFICANCE**

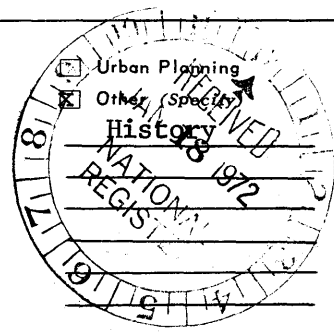
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1833, c. 1840

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <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

Holly Court, so named by its most recent owner because of the large number of holly trees on the grounds, is an innovative example of the common ante-bellum practice in Washington of combining and remodeling houses to provide a townhouse for a planter who owned and supervised acreage in other parts of the county. This practice was the impetus for the enlargement of the house in the 1840's when Dr. Fielding Ficklen who had developed a substantial plantation about seven miles south of Washington in an area of Wilkes County that is now known as Ficklen, moved his plantation house to town on ox-carts. The house as it stands today is largely the result of Ficklen's work and conveys an impression of the classic monumentality that he was undoubtedly seeking when he put together his townhouse.

In addition, the house, as the Georgia Historical Commission marker informs the visitor, has been the site of historic events. Mrs. Jefferson Davis with her children took refuge there on her flight south in 1864, arriving in Washington a few days before her husband, who stopped in the town to hold the final meeting of the cabinet of the Confederacy. One of Dr. Ficklen's sons, Boyce, who later took an active part in preserving information and landmarks of Washington's history, was born in the house in 1851. Elizabeth Ficklen, a daughter, was married there in 1848 to James Pettigrew Boyce, co-founder and first president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

The history of Holly Court is one of the most interesting of the Washington houses. The lot on which it stands was owned between 1817 and 1830 by Billy Hoxey, a "free man of color" who identified himself for the record as required by law, in 1817 as a house carpenter, born in Chatham County and about twenty-eight years old. Hoxey was a deacon in the Washington Baptist Church who served the Negro members. Whether or not anything remains of Hoxey's house in the present structure is not clear. In October, 1830, Lewis Brown, acting as trustee for Hoxey, sold the property to William L. Harris, who had married Frances Semmes, a descendent of the distinguished Maryland Semmes, on May 30 of that year. Harris, who later moved to Mississippi, where he was a prominent jurist, lived there only three years, selling in May, 1833 to Lock Weems for \$1700. It is probable that Lock Weems made extensive improvements to the house. The deed and tax records indicate a sharp increase in value during Weems' ownership of the property. When Weems, who had married his second wife, Maria F. Shepherd, in 1830, sold this house to his wife's mother, Mary Shepherd, in February of 1836, the recorded price was \$3000, suggesting that some building activity had taken place. The following year on September 6, Dr. Ficklen paid \$2800 to Mary Shepherd for the house and proceeded to enlarge and remodel

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., A History of Washington, Wilkes County, Georgia,  
 typewritten bound manuscript containing copies of many documents, deeds,  
 wills, letters, etc., partially indexed.  
 Willis C. Lindsey, Sr., Homes and Sites of the Residents of Washington,  
 Wilkes County, Georgia, compiled 1953-1958.  
 Elizabeth A. Lyon, personal inspection July, September, 1971.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

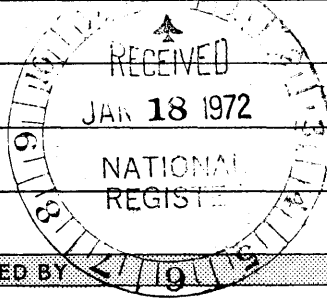
| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | OR | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|----|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |    | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |  |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |    | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    | 33° 44' 0"  | 82° 44' 12"             |  |
| NE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    |   |                         |  |
| SE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    |   |                         |  |
| SW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    |   |                         |  |

NO UTM  
CX

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1.93 acres**

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Dr. Elizabeth A. Lyon, consultant for 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 Jurett

Title State Liaison Officer

Date January 12, 1972

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

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

Date 4/11/72

ATTEST:

William H. Sturtevant  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date APR 11 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

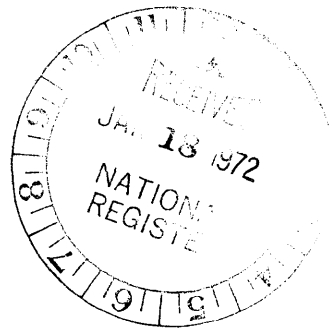
|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| STATE<br>Georgia |             |
| COUNTY<br>Wilkes |             |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE        |
|                  | APR 11 1972 |

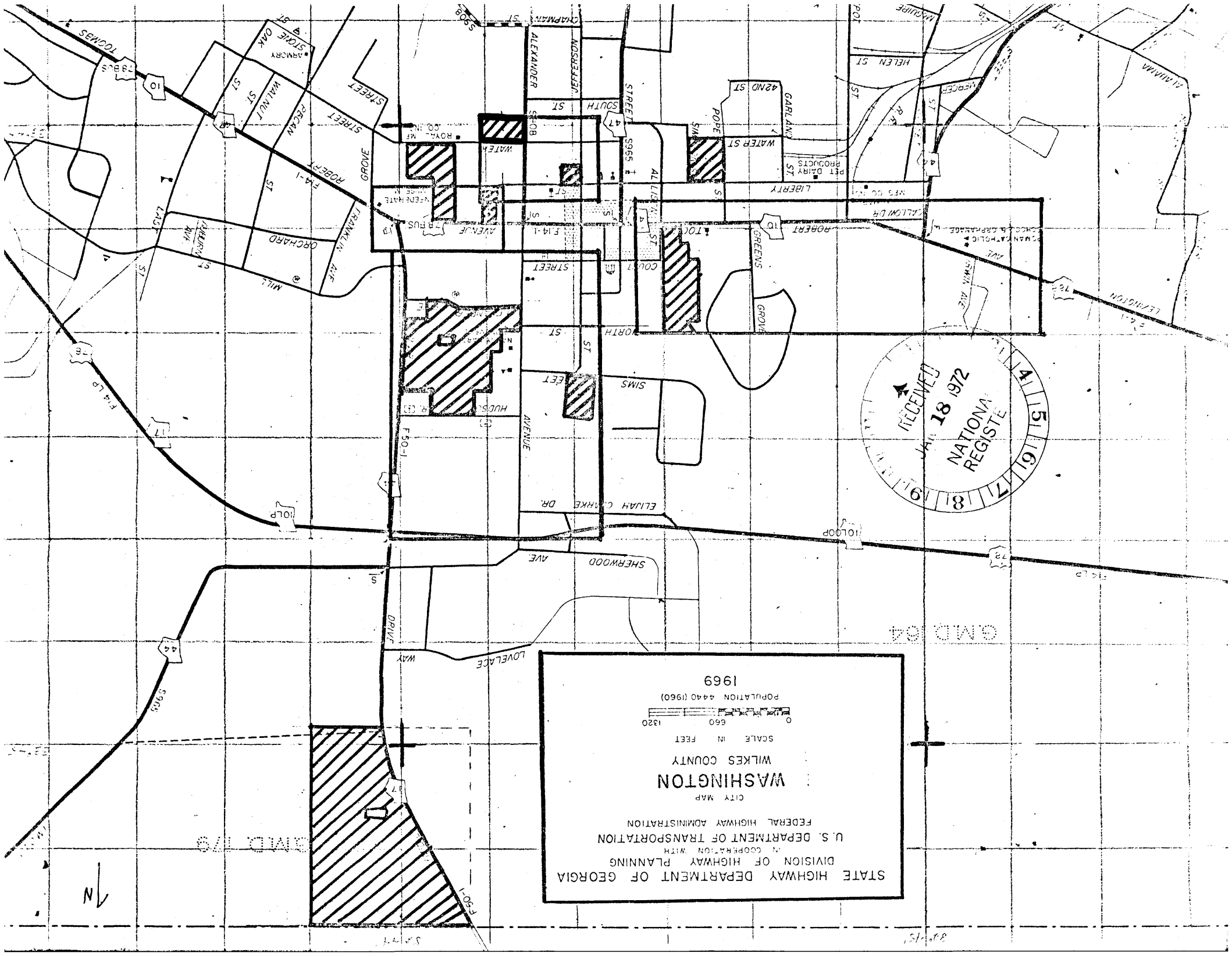
(Number all entries)

8. Significance

it. One of Ficklen's sons, Dr. J. Burwell Ficklen, occupied the house after his father died in May, 1869. It was his wife, apparently, who developed the fine gardens. In 1890, George E. Lyndon, who was for a time in the nineties mayor of Washington, bought the property. For a long time after his death the house stood vacant. A relative, Andrew Lyndon, who owned the house in the 1930's, rented it to the W.P.A., which had a mattress making project there. Traces of this activity remained when the Rocheford Johnsons bought the house in July of 1939.

Holly Court, as one of the important structures in the Water-Liberty Street District of Washington, makes a forceful impression among the less monumental structures that surround it. Its tall portico, visible through its setting of foliage and gardens, conveys to the observer an impression of the townhouse life style of ante-bellum days.





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

RECEIVED  
 JAN 18 1972  
 NATIONAL REGISTER

GMD 64

GMD 79

