

PH0002844

STATE: Georgia	
COUNTY: Clarke	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-5-10-0036	DATE 5/19/90

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Wilkins House
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 387 South Milledge Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Athens			
STATE Georgia	CODE 10	COUNTY: Clarke	CODE 059

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> _____ _____ _____
			Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>considered for cultural center</u>

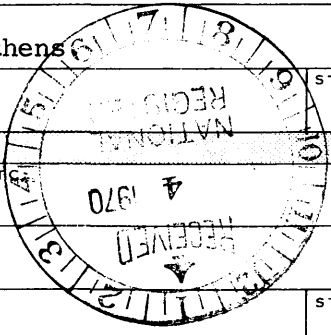
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNERS NAME: in trust as estate of Mrs. Van Cleve Wilkins Cochran			
STREET AND NUMBER: First National Bank of Athens			
CITY OR TOWN: Athens		STATE: Georgia	CODE: 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Clarke County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Athens		STATE: Georgia	CODE: 10
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 1/2 acres			

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Athens Historical Survey, prepared by Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation (unpublished)			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1968 Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation			
STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 5671			
CITY OR TOWN: Athens		STATE: Georgia	CODE: 10

STATE: Georgia
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

1842 SA
 The most dominating architectural aspect of this house is a feature not untypical in Georgia's Athens: a deep, two-story porch formed by a three-sided ~~peri~~ ~~portico~~ of fluted Corinthian columns supporting a fully developed classical entablature (frieze, modillions, and dentils). Tall brick piers support this three-sided portico which forms a covered porch-entrance way for the ground floor, an English basement with stuccoed walls. The two floors above this are clapboarded. Wide steps lead up to the formal first floor and main entrance - an enclosed projecting vestibule surmounted by a balustraded parapet, which forms a balcony serving the second floor hallway. Tall windows framed with operable louvered shutters extend to the peristyle porch floor on either side of the projecting vestibule. Clearly the house has undergone several remodellings since the 1860's. All in all it is imposingly Classic Revival, though some of the exterior details date from late 19th century neoclassicism of the Chicago Exposition variety. The plan is of the dominant type for large houses in the Greek Revival style during the years just prior to the Civil War: four rooms with center hall; simple and academic. One of the most interesting interior details are the first floor chimney pieces with Minton tile hearths in the "Eastlake" mode, evidently added when Professor Leon H. Charbonnier purchased the house in 1886. These with the "Chicago Exposition style" Corinthian capitals made of a plaster-of-paris like composition material, along with the strictly Greek Revival features, make up over one hundred years of architectural evolution. This is a well-sited, important-looking house which has stood since Milledge Avenue was opened for development; without it, Milledge would be just another street, Anywhere, U.S.A.

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) 1860, 1886?, 1910?

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

At 387 South Milledge Avenue, Athens, Georgia, the Wilkins House has stood since 1860. It is one of a group of houses built by the Dearing family on Milledge Avenue when Milledge was opened for development just prior to the Civil War. The A.P. Dearing House, for instance, at 338 is considered to be an ideal example of the ~~Greek Revival~~ architecture which causes Athens to be called the Classic City. In the 1850's, Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian columns rose along Milledge among virgin timber. Today these tree-shaded columns, now established as though planted by giants, are being toppled and smashed, and unhappily not being replaced by architecture and town planning of the quality long associated with Milledge. The Wilkins House survives as a private residence held in a trust which requires that the house be sold by July 1, 1970. Its Milledge Avenue site has great urban planning significance which has been recognized by one of the three beneficiaries of the trust, Miss Josephine Wilkins. With the cooperation of the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation, Inc., and the University of Georgia, Miss Wilkins has laid plans for the property to remain intact. The house would be adapted for use as a university cultural center with meeting rooms, studios, and guest rooms for visiting artists and performers. A written agreement between those relatives whom the trust benefits, states that the house should be sold to the University of Georgia for such purposes as are briefly mentioned above. Helping to develop this project is the President of Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation, Mr. John C. Waters, an assistant professor in the School of Environmental Design and the Institute of Community Development, University of Georgia. The Wilkins property was originally owned by the University. In 1860 Alfred L. Dearing purchased it and began building a house which was not finished until after the Civil War. In 1878 Dearing sold out, and the house passed through several owners until Professor Leon Henri Charbonnier purchased it in 1886. Professor Charbonnier's heirs sold it in 1905, and in 1909 John Julian Wilkins and his wife purchased it for \$10,000. On April 20, 1945, Mrs. Jessey Horton Wilkins left the house in trust, with disposition of estate property mandatory by July 1, 1970. In 1909 when John Julian Wilkins (whose name the house bears) purchased this mansion on Milledge Avenue, he was President of the Georgia National Bank and of the American State Bank, both of Athens. Born in Darlington, S. C., he grew up on a farm in Greene County, Georgia, and came to Athens in 1909. In 1900 he was elected President of the Bank of the University which in 1902 was reorganized as the two banks mentioned above; he became the leading banker in Athens and one of the South's most important financial figures. He died in 1940. Wilkins House is one of the cultural landmarks of Athens. Without its tree-shaded columns and large cast iron dog guarding the grounds, Milledge Avenue could become but another technological slum. This does not have to be....

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Davis, William Columbus. The Classic Columns of Athens (Atlanta: Foote & Davies, 1951).
History of Athens and Clarke County (Athens, H.J. Rowe, Publisher, 1923).
 March, Blanche and Kenneth F. Athens, Georgia's Columned City. (Ashville, N.C.: Biltmore Press; 1964).
 Mitchell, William R., Inspection of house, March, 1970.
 Nichols, Frederick Doveton. The Early Architecture of Georgia. (Chapel Hill: University of Georgia Press, 1957).
 "Wilkins House." Report on property transactions. Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation, April, 1970. Ga. Historical Commission files.
 Wilkins, Josephine. "Wilkins House and Life Associated With It." Unpublished manuscript. Georgia Historical Commission files.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

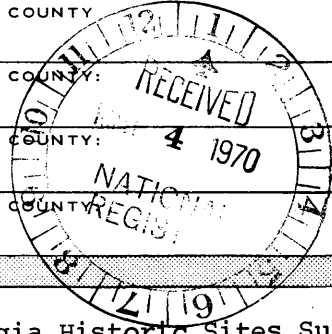
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		33	57	3
SE	° ' "	° ' "		83	23	13
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NO UTM
CX

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 William R. Mitchell, Jr. Director Georgia Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION: Georgia Historical Commission DATE: _____

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

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 10

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 Just
 Title State Liaison Officer - Ga
 Date Apr. 30, 1970

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

Conrad Allen Pennington
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAY 19 1970

Date _____

ATTEST:
William J. Smutsky
 Keeper of The National Register

Date MAY 7 1970