

PHOM 2679

6th 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: Carroll	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.5.10.002D	DATE 5/13/70

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Thomas Bonner House

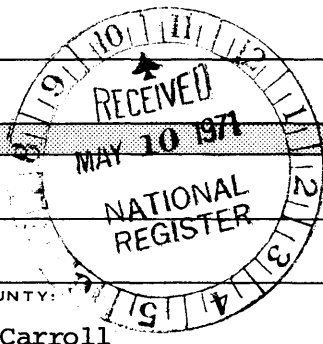
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
\* Bonner-Sharp-Gunn House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
West Georgia College

CITY OR TOWN:  
Carrollton

STATE: Georgia      CODE: 13      COUNTY: Carroll      CODE: 045



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Board of Regents, University System of Georgia

STREET AND NUMBER:  
244 Washington St., S.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta      STATE: Georgia      CODE: 13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Carroll County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Newnan Street

CITY OR TOWN: Carrollton      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: Carroll

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: 70.5.10.002D

DATE: 5/13/70

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Bonner House has been described by Dr. J.C. Bonner, professor emeritus of history at Georgia College at Milledgeville and member of the Georgia Historical Commission, as "a transitional house of the frontier." The house, constructed c. 1844, has served many functions in its long history.

Built as a residence for Thomas Bonner, Carroll County planter, it was raided by federal cavalry during the War Between the States, but spared from the torch. After the War the house passed into the hands of the Sharp family. In 1907 the land on which it stood, land lot 99, was bought as the site of the 4th District A & M School. The house served as the first women's dormitory for the school. In 1913 it was moved, with the chimneys on it, to its present site, approximately 300 yards to the east of its original location.

Upon the closing of the A & M schools in 1932, the campus became the site of West Georgia College, a junior unit of the University System. During the period from 1933 to 1970, the Bonner House served as a residence for the Dean, a faculty residence, a women's dormitory and offices for various departments of the college.

Up until its renovation for offices in 1966, the house had remained relatively unchanged. An early shed addition survives and the exterior is essentially intact except for some minor modifications to the chimneys and a couple of doors and windows.

The upstairs rooms were not included in the renovation and remain basically unchanged, with the exception of the addition (of uncertain date) of a double-width half window in the rear wall of each of the two rooms. The renovation of the downstairs involved the removal and disposal of all mantels, the loss of all of the original interior doors, the covering of the board walls and ceiling with sheet rock, the cutting of a door between the left front and left rear rooms, the addition of a wall in the left front room, and the covering of some of the floors with tile over plywood. Fortunately, all of the features obliterated downstairs are duplicated upstairs, greatly facilitating the task of restoration.

The only architect to be involved with the project to date is Sibley Jennings, III. Mr. Jennings served as consultant to the Bonner House Restoration Committee prior to his move to Baltimore, Md. His interest in the house was aroused by a photograph of the front of the building. He felt that there was a similarity, too strong to be coincidental, between the window treatment on this house and that on the Sorrel-Weed House, in Savannah, designed by Charles B. Cluskey. It was his conjecture that either the owner of the house or the builder had seen the Savannah house, been taken with the treatment and tried to duplicate it, in wood rather than stone, in Carrollton. This view is perhaps made more credible by the fact that two other houses in the county (one of which has been destroyed by fire) built for the brothers of Thomas Bonner reflect similar treatments.

The house is a study in the provincial adaptation of the Greek Revival style. The plainness of the wide pine board interior walls is belied by the exterior with its fine double-breasted chimneys, its two fluted Doric columns, the careful treatment of the window and door moldings, the detail of the cornices and the diamond pattern in the railing of the upstairs porch. The Greek Revival motif is apparent in the interior primarily in the two remaining mantels (in the upstairs rooms). These hand-planed mantels, obviously the work of a local, or at least provincial, artisan, embody the



S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Georgia	
COUNTY	
Carroll	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-510-0020	5/13/70

(Number all entries)

7. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION, page 2.

Greek Key motif, worked out carefully but simply.

The house's chief appeal and value lie not, however, in the area of the excellence of its craftsmanship, which is good enough, but in its reflection of the tastes and preferences of the fine houses of eastern Georgia in a frontier setting. It gives further evidence of the geographical and cultural transmittal of taste and style and of the often seen desire to embellish and refine a functional dwelling to make it, in addition to a shelter, a source of aesthetic enjoyment as well.



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1844

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input checked="" 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

Bonner House is one of the few surviving examples of ante-bellum dwellings in Carroll County. None of the others seems to offer much hope for restoration, either because of severe deterioration or alteration or because of lack of interest on the part of the owners. In short, Bonner House offers the best and perhaps only possibility of ante-bellum preservation in Carroll County.

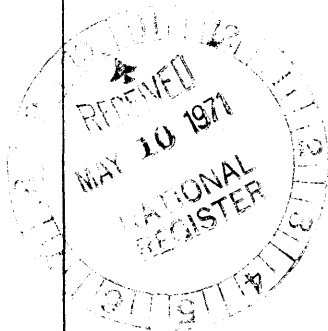
The house is not connected with any great men or with any really momentous historical events. It has, however, been a part of almost the entire history of the county and serves as a reminder of the past literally in the midst of the progress and change symbolized by the modern campus of West Georgia College.

The house, when restored, should be a valuable teaching tool for both the college and the local schools, a source of pride and a reminder of their heritage to residents of the area, and the sort of link between the college and the community which is very much needed.

The significance of the house was recognized by the Georgia Historical Commission in the mid 1960's with the erection of a historical marker in the front yard of the house.

(The purely architectural significance of Bonner House is discussed on the facing page.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bonner, James C., The Educational History of Carroll County, 1968.  
 Bonner, James C., The Migration Pattern of the Descendents of Thomas Bonner, 1968.  
 Nichols, Frederick Doveton, The Early Architecture of Georgia. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1957).  
 \_\_\_\_\_, The Chieftain, West Georgia Yearbook, 1941.

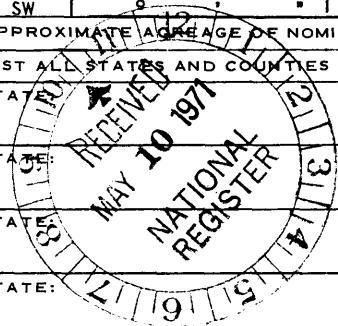
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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 TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		33 34 17	85 05 52.5	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than 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



NO  
UTM  
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**McDonald Willis, Chairman**

ORGANIZATION: **Bonner House Restoration Committee**      DATE: **April 29, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**West Georgia College**

CITY OR TOWN: **Carrollton**      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 Jewett      Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title State Liaison Officer      ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Date May 7, 1971      \_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Georgia	
COUNTY Carroll	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 10.5.10.0020	DATE 5/13/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Thomas Bonner House  
 AND/OR HISTORIC: Bonner-Sharp-Gunn House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
West Georgia

CITY OR TOWN:  
Carrollton

STATE: Georgia	CODE 13	COUNTY: Carroll	CODE 045
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3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: Baldwin Associates Inc.

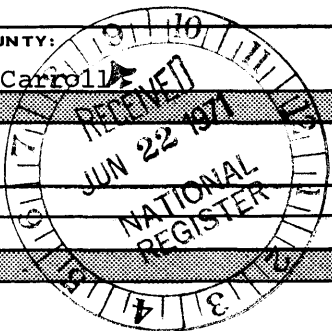
SCALE: 1 inch = 500 feet

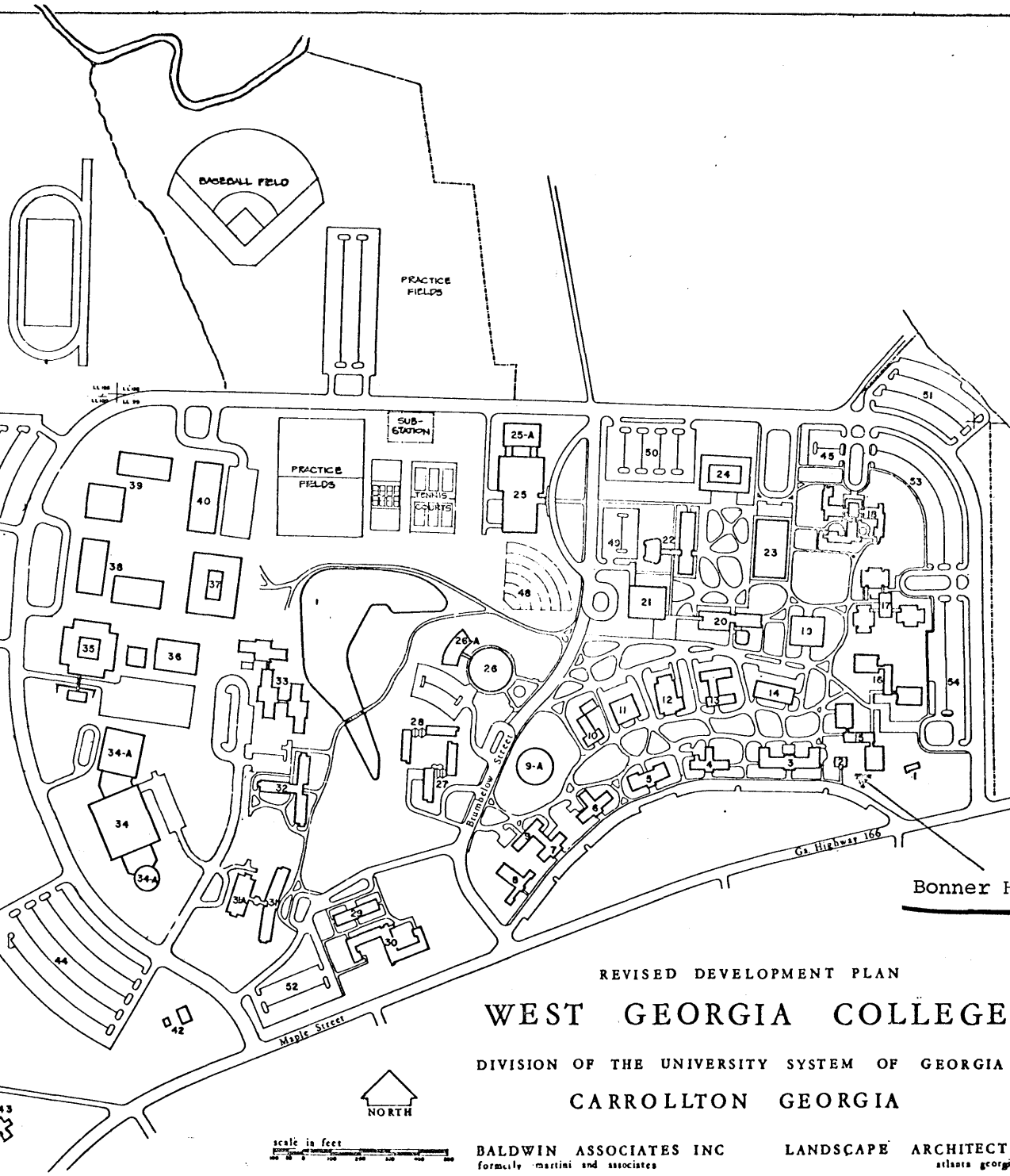
DATE: undated

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- Property boundaries where required.
- North arrow.
- Latitude and longitude reference.





REVISED DEVELOPMENT PLAN

# WEST GEORGIA COLLEGE

DIVISION OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

CARROLLTON GEORGIA



BALDWIN ASSOCIATES INC  
formerly martini and associates

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS  
atlanta georgia

Bonner House