

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED **OCT 17 1979**  
DATE ENTERED **DEC 18 1979**

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Elisha Winn House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

908 Dacula Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Dacula

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Ninth - Edgar Jenkins

STATE

Georgia

CODE

13

COUNTY

Gwinnett

CODE

135

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Gwinnett County - Mr. Bill Atkinson, Chairman, Gwinnett County Commissioners

STREET & NUMBER

240 Oak Street

CITY, TOWN

Lawrenceville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia 30245

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Superior Court

STREET & NUMBER

Gwinnett County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Lawrenceville

STATE

Georgia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic Structures Field Survey: Gwinnett County, Georgia

DATE

1978

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Elisha Winn House is a "two-over-two" Plantation Plain-style structure with central stair hall and exterior chimneys at each end. A mid-nineteenth-century T-shaped addition abutts the rear of the house. Although the house currently has a one-story front porch, photographs and architectural evidence indicate an earlier two-story swinging porch. External detailing is very simple with corner, door and window trims and gable cornice returns.

The interior of the house shows very little modification. The central stair with balustrade is original, as are all four mantels, five interior doors (including most hardware). The floors, walls and ceiling retain the original wideboard finishes.

Although the original portion of the house is currently unoccupied, its overall structural condition has been appraised by a restoration architect as excellent.

Also on the three-acre property are a rebuilt drive-through barn and a small wood and tin shed. Potential archaeological components include the known sites of an early wooden jail structure, trash pit and commissary building.

The Elisha Winn House is located on three acres owned by Gwinnett County and leased to the Gwinnett Historical Society. Significant outbuildings associated with the house are contained on these three acres. The original larger tract associated with the house is owned by the Baptist Foundation of Texas and is no longer in agricultural production.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1812

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Elisha Winn House is significant in Gwinnett County political and legal history and in the early architectural history of the county. This Plantation Plain-style house was where the first elections and sessions of the Inferior and Superior courts were held in newly created Gwinnett County.

Gwinnett County was created by an Act of the Georgia legislature in December, 1818, out of Jackson County and Cherokee Indian land cessions. Section 2 of the Act which formally organized the county stipulated that elections and the Superior and Inferior courts be held "at the house of Elisha Winn." As a result of this Act, the first elections were held in this house, as were the first sessions of the Inferior Court. The first session of the Gwinnett County Superior Court was held on the site of the rebuilt barn on the nominated property.

Elisha Winn [1777-1842] was an important planter, judicial figure and governmental representative in Gwinnett County. He was the first justice of the county's Inferior Court, and, as such, was appointed by the Georgia legislature commissioner of the courthouse and jail and vested with full power and authority to select a site near the center of the county for the permanent courthouse. Winn bought Lot 146, consisting of 250 acres, from John Breedlove of Hancock County, who had drawn this lot in the Cherokee Indian land lottery. On this land was built Gwinnett's first permanent courthouse. Lawrenceville, the county seat, grew up around this original site. Winn served as justice of the Gwinnett County Inferior Court (1820-25), state senator (1826), and state representative (1830, 1833, 1837).

The Elisha Winn House is important as one of the few surviving examples of Plantation Plain-style architecture from the earliest period of Gwinnett County history. Salient features which make the house Plantation Plain style include its two-over-two plan, end chimneys and end gables, and the central hall. The mortice-and-tenon construction is typical of this type of house during this period. This style was common across the Georgia piedmont. Significant features of the Winn house include stone rather than brick chimneys and the wideboard walls. The addition on the back of the house was typical of the kinds of alterations made to original four-room houses as the need for more space became paramount. The Elisha Winn House is an important architectural resource in this area.

[continued]

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Flanigan, James C. History of Gwinnett County, Georgia, Vol. I. Hapeville, Ga., 1943.  
 Personal inspection by Richard Cloues and Steve Henson, February, 1979.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3

QUADRANGLE NAME Hog Mountain, Ga.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,7 2,3,1,4,6,5 3,7,6,8,4,1,0

B               

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the Elisha Winn House nomination are indicated on the enclosed plat prepared for the Gwinnett County Historical Society.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Steve Henson, National Register researcher

ORGANIZATION

Historic Preservation Section, Georgia D.N.R.

DATE

August 30, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

270 Washington Street, S.W.

TELEPHONE

(404) 656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia 30334

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Elizabeth A. Lyon*

TITLE

Elizabeth A. Lyon  
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

10/3/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Carl D. Shull*

DATE

12-18-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Walter A. Duke*

DATE

12/17/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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No formal archaeology has been reported on this property. Archaeology may help in any future research directed towards identifying placement of out-buildings as well as the site of the jail.

The original Winn plantation was purchased by the Sims family in the late 1800s and was occupied by them until the mid-twentieth century. The surrounding land is no longer in agricultural production.

The Gwinnett County Historical Society leases this county-owned property and intends to restore the house and grounds. The property should serve as an important catalyst to local historic preservation efforts.