

P40031577

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Georgia
COUNTY:	Morgan
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	NOV 13 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Nathan Bennett House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Dixie Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
10th--Robert G. Stephens, Jr.

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Morgan CODE: 211

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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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"/> 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 checked="" 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:
Nathan R. Bennett

STREET AND NUMBER:
Dixie Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison, Georgia

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Madison

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
none

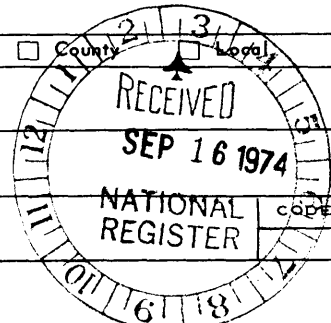
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Georgia

COUNTY: Morgan

ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 13 1974

DATE: 1974

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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

The Nathan Bennett House, located in Morgan County, was built in 1850 on Dixie Avenue in Madison, Georgia. Set far back from the road on a large open lot dotted with trees, the house is a two-storey frame dwelling with an elaborate Victorian style bracketed porch. Five bays wide and four bays deep, the house is rectangular in shape with sash windows and black shutters. The main body of the residence has classical features in an Italianate mode. Two-storey wooden pilasters flank the facade and are repeated on the entrance. The entrance pilasters, supporting a thin cornice, frame the door and include side lights and a transom light. The door is original and consists of two large panels above and two square panels below, with the original hardware.

The roof of the structure is almost flat and incorporates an overhang supported by white wooden brackets. These brackets form part of an entablature that rests upon the two pilasters of the facade. An entablature caps each of the windows.

The one-storey porch, spanning the width of the house, is an expression of Victorian fancy. Five arched bays support a flat roof with an overhang and brackets. Carpenter lacework trim forms the spandrels created by the arches and gives a lightness and delicacy to the structure. The porch includes a low railing and six square pillars, each with two bands of moulding forming a capital.

The interior of the Bennett House incorporates a large central hall running front to back. A walnut staircase rises at the right and includes a cut-out wood filigree design on the outside of each riser. Floors are original and are of pine.

Two rooms open off of either side of the hallway. Mantels in the two front rooms are of Italian marble and have a shield in the center. Both front rooms contain a chair rail. Panels are located under each of the side windows.

A kitchen was originally located to the rear of the dwelling and was connected to the house by a breezeway. This kitchen is no longer extant.

The second floor of the home repeats the plan of the first floor. Floors are of light pine and are original, as are the simple wooden mantels. A bath has been added at the end of the hallway in the front part of the house.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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) 1850

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" 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

The Nathan Bennett House is significant in that it played an important role in the history of women's rights in Georgia. Events connected with the structure led to the abolishment of the Georgia law that stated that females could not own property in their own name.

The Bennett House was built in 1850 by Milton B. Davis. Davis lived there only three years and subsequently sold the property to John Cardwell. Cardwell left the home to his daughter, Amanda, who was married to Junius P. Smith. It was Smith who, in 1863, lost the house in a poker game to James Mann. According to the laws of Georgia, Smith was his wife's agent and could legally administer to the building as he pleased. Mann took possession of the house, but because the structure actually belonged to Mrs. Smith, a controversy ensued, and eventually the laws concerning land ownership were changed in 1869. Under the new law, women could own property in their own name, although this law appeared too late to affect Mrs. Smith.

The house over which the controversy arose is a fine Victorian style structure with delicate cut-out wood embellishments. It incorporates classical details with a Victorian porch and has been maintained virtually intact since its construction. The architectural merit of the house, combined with its special role in the history of women's rights, qualifies the Nathan Bennett House for recognition and preservation.



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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hunt, Caroline C., local researcher. Madison, Georgia.

Macgregor, Elizabeth, Architectural Historian. Personal inspection.
July 25, 1974.

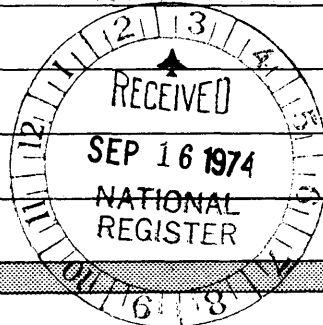
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		33 35 12	83 29 17	
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 7 Acres

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



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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Kristalia Stavrolakis, Elizabeth Macgregor (Consultant, Architectural
 ORGANIZATION Historian) DATE August 23, 1974
Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources
 STREET AND NUMBER:
703C-10 Trinity-Washington Building, 270 Washington Street, S.W.
 CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE Georgia 30334 CODE 13

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 Joe D. Zanner
 Title State Historic Preservation Officer
 Date September 6, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

AR Montrossen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/13/74

ATTEST:
Charles H. Montgomery
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 11.7.74