

PH 0692921

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED DEC 5 1978

DATE ENTERED

JAN 22 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

John W. Woolfolk House

AND/OR COMMON

Colonial Apartments; Old Woolfolk House

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1615 Twelfth Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Third - Rep. Jack Brinkley

STATE

Georgia

CODE

13

COUNTY

Muscogee

CODE

215

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER: Vacant

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

David C. Cummings

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 5623, 2006 Preston Drive

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

STATE

Georgia 31906

VICINITY OF

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Consolidated Government Center (Deed Books)

STREET & NUMBER

Tenth Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

STATE

Georgia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

(1) Historic Columbus Buildings Inventory

(2) Columbus-Muscogee County Historic Building Survey

DATE

(1) 1967

(2) 1976

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

(1) Historic Columbus Foundation, Inc.

(2) State of Georgia, Department of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN

(1) Columbus

STATE

(2) Atlanta

Georgia

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old John Woolfolk House was originally the center of a large suburban Wynnton estate but is now converted into an apartment house on the north side of Twelfth Street (to the west, Dinglewood, registered in 1972, stands on part of the original Woolfolk acreage). The two-story frame house in the Greek Revival style originally had a Greek Doric colonnade around three sides; the east and west verandas were removed about 1925, leaving a peristyle much like its Wynnton neighbor "Gordonido." (The architect is believed to have been a Cuban named Enrico Lopez, who probably also did nearby "Gordonido;" the six remaining Doric columns of wood are identical to those at "Gordonido.") The entablature is unadorned except for a parapet, added when the house became the "Colonial Apartments," and the east and west porticoes were removed to be replaced by low wings. Essentially unaltered is the fine Greek Revival-type doorway centered on the first floor with its original wrought-iron balcony above; the second-story doorway has been altered to give two exits onto this balcony. The first floor door-surrounds have side lights and transoms, engaged pilasters in antis supporting an entablature carved with a classical egg-and-dart motif.

Typical of the period were floor-length windows which were converted into "French doors" in the ca. 1925 renovation. Inside is a typical Greek Revival-period plan with wide central hall and flanking formal rooms; the original curving staircase of mahogany with curled fretwork on the side of the stairs, fine newel post and turned balusters have survived as have the marble mantels in the mid-Victorian Italianate Revival taste with exceptional iron fire screens.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      ca. 1835 and ca. 1930      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Enrico Lopez (?)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Woolfolk House is significant in the areas of architecture and local history. A series of significant Columbus people have owned the property from the 1830s, when it was built, up to the present day. It is a fine example of Greek Revival architecture built by one of the pioneers of this county in the large-estate area known as Wynnton.

The building's significance in the area of community planning derives from the fact that it was among the very first of the large Wynnton estates, along with the Wynn House, registered in 1971, and "Dinglewood," registered in 1972, and "Gordonido," which is in the registration process. Soon after the State of Georgia set aside a five-mile-square Coweta Reserve to be especially developed by plan with the town of Columbus as the county seat and urban center, the Village of Wynnton began to be settled on the high ground east of the town site. John W. Woolfolk (1781-1861), along with William L. Wynn, were the first settlers of this part of the Reserve; April 4, 1832, Woolfolk acquired the land on which the house stands. (The same builder/architect, a Cuban named Enrico Lopez, about whom nothing is known, probably designed all the early Greek Revival houses in Columbus -- the Wynn House, "Gordonido," etc.) Woolfolk owned a large acreage on the north side of Wynnton Road, across from William L. Wynn's estate, and both men were elected to the state legislature from Muscogee County in October, 1832. Woolfolk was originally from Virginia and came to Augusta, Georgia, before settling in Columbus when lands became available in the late 1820s. By the time he died in 1861, his original large acreage had already begun to be subdivided as Wynnton grew; in 1857, he sold thirty acres east of his home to Joel E. Hurt, who built "Dinglewood." His daughters inherited his estate when Woolfolk died, and then the property passed to Judge William A. Little, when it was known as the "Little Place." About 1925, Mrs. Minnie J. Flournoy gave it its present configuration as the "Colonial Apartments" by taking off the side columns and adding one-story wings.

On September 12, 1967, during the Historic Columbus Building Inventory, Carl Feiss, A.I.A. and A.I.P., gave this structure a "priority number one" rating with "exceptional" architectural significance and "great importance to the neighborhood." This consultant concurs, yet the Woolfolk House is fast deteriorating and must soon be saved. A new book about architecture in

[continued]

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Worsley, Etta Blanchard. Columbus on the Chattahoochee. Columbus, Ga.: Columbus Office Supply Co., 1951
- Mitchell, William R., Jr. Personal inspection and research, 1978.
- Historic Columbus Foundation, Inc. "Historic Building Inventory," 1967; files.
- Jeane, D. Gregory, ed. The Architectural Legacy of the Lower Chattahoochee Valley in Alabama and Georgia. University of Alabama Press, 1978. To be [continued]

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 1.53 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Columbus QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1,6</u>	<u>6,9,0</u>	<u>9,4,0</u>	<u>3,5</u>	<u>9,4</u>	<u>0,2,0</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				
C							D			
E							F			
G							H			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

At 1615 12th Street between 18th Avenue and 16th Avenue, 144 feet on 12th Street, 181.5 feet deep both west and east, going south to 149 feet on the northern edge  
[continued]

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

William R. Mitchell, Jr., Consultant/Martha F. Norwood

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Columbus Foundation, Inc./Historic Preservation Sec. August, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

700 Broadway/270 Washington St., S.W.

404-322-0756/404-656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Columbus/Atlanta

Georgia 31901/30334

# 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

DATE

10/13/78

State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

1-22-79

ATTEST:

*Charles A. Keating*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1/22/79

*Robert J. Smith*  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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the Columbus area, soon to be published, includes the Woolfolk House as one of the area's most important surviving antebellum structures and features two pages of measured Beaux Arts-type drawings done by Edward W. Neal, A.I.A.; in that text is the following evaluation:

Despite the modifications for its present function (an apartment house since about 1925), the Woolfolk Home is a testimony to the taste of its builder. The building is now vacant and rapidly beginning to deteriorate.

In conclusion, the old Woolfolk House, or "Colonial Apartments," was one of the very first Wynnton estates and is one of the town's most significant surviving antebellum Greek Revival structures. Worthy of continued preservation, it should be added to the list of other registered houses in the old Village of Wynnton, now a suburb within the city limits, and given local landmark status as a result of this process of national recognition. Twelfth Street, on which the property is located, is only one block off of Wynnton Road, which has become one of the town's major thoroughfares and the focus of a great deal of commercial development. Wynnton is changing as that part of the old Coweta Reserve slowly loses much of its original residential character. Indeed, the process was beginning when John Woolfolk's house became the "Colonial Apartments," an early twentieth century example of adaptive use. (In 1926, pictured as Plate 119 of Howard Major's Domestic Architecture of the Early American Republic, The Greek Revival, the house had already been given its present appearance; it is one of four Classical Revival houses shown from Columbus. Two have already been listed on the National Register and one, the Fontaine House, was demolished in 1938.) The present owner of the Woolfolk House, having recently purchased it, has plans for the renovation of the structure with continued use as an apartment building.

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Bibliography &  
CONTINUATION SHEET Verbal Boundary ITEM NUMBER 9 & 10 PAGE 2

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9. Major Bibliographical Data

published in September.)

Majors, Howard. The Domestic Architecture of the Early American Republic, The Greek Revival. Philadelphia: J.P. Lippincott & Co., 1926.

10. Geographical Data - Verbal Boundary Description

of the property, as shown on Muscogee County Tax Map 26, Sheet No. 7-L, Columbus, Georgia, Revised January 24, 1978, Block R-4, Parcel 4.

John W. Woolfolk House  
 Muscogee County Tax Map  
 Revised January 1978  
 Block R-4, Parcel 4  
 Map 26  
 Scale: 1" = 100'

JAN 22 1979

2.27 AC.

DEC 5 1978

R.

