

PH001 3315

10th Congressional District
Robert G. Stephens, Jr.

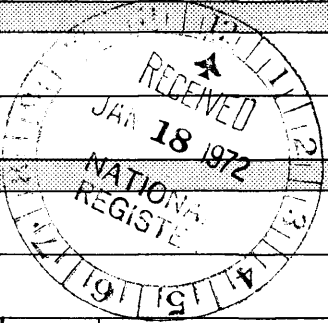
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

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: Wilkes	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER APR 11 1972	DATE



1. NAME

COMMON:
Poplar Corner

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Prince-Pope-Simpson-Stephens House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
210 West Liberty Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: Georgia CODE: 3 COUNTY: Wilkes CODE: 317

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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Dr. Robert Grier Stephens

STREET AND NUMBER:
210 West Liberty Street

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Office of Clerk of Superior Court, Wilkes County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court Street

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Washington Comprehensive Plan, Historic Area Study

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Georgia Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
116 Mitchell Street

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Georgia
COUNTY: Wilkes
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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

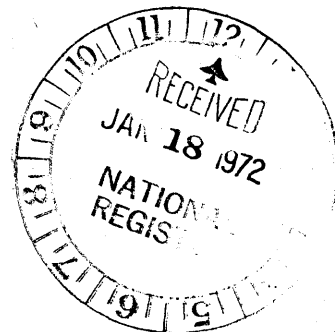
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Prince-Pope-Simpson-Stephens House is a monumental, two-story, white clapboard building that has grown, like other Washington houses, in stages. However, unlike many of the others, major changes include exterior changes in the Victorian period and a colonnade added, not in the Greek Revival era of the 1840's, but early in the twentieth century. The front portion, c. 1810, is a plantation-plain style house with Federal details built on a four-room, central hall plan with a curving staircase. The back section is a four-room addition which Alexander Pope made in 1825 by moving the old 1785 Wilkes County courthouse and joining it to the 1810 house. Renovations by William Simpson in the 1880's covered the body of the extant house with brackets and other Victorian details and added side porches. In 1905 the elaborate Corinthian portico, added to the front of the house by Robert Simpson, made the home into the Beaux-arts revival mansion that stands today on spacious grounds at the corner of Liberty and Pope streets.

The monumentally scaled Corinthian portico is the most impressive feature of the exterior, although details of both the Victorian era and the ante-bellum Federal phase of the home's growth are still a part of the total form. The entrance facade reveals its early nineteenth-century date by a round fan light and side lights framing the opening and an elliptical fan with side lights above a hanging balcony. Four colossal Corinthian columns support an entablature that is elaborated by a swag frieze. This pattern is tied to the older body of the house by an extension of the frieze around both sides under the bracketed cornice and by another band of the frieze that runs across the facade between the two stories. On either side Victorian porches with bracketed posts and cornices have also been tied to the portico design by swag friezes along the front face and Corinthian columns which have been inserted at the corners. From the back yard, where a pigeon house and other outbuildings remain, some of the additions to the house can be seen, in particular the one-story kitchen wing added in the 1800's.

Federal style details are visible in the interior in sunburst friezes over the mantels in both front parlors and in the curving stairway. While the heavy newell post of the stairway is obviously a later addition, and the balusters may also have been changed, the curving shape and scroll stair ends are similar to that of many houses of the early nineteenth century in the piedmont area. In the dining room dark trim, spool woodwork and stained glass windows have transformed this room that was originally part of the 1785 courthouse into a High Victorian interior.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

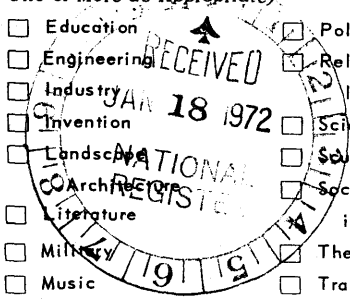
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1810, 1825, 1874, 1905

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 Prince-Pope-Simpson-Stephens House is significantly the only fully developed Beaux-arts, classical revival structure in Washington. Other houses have added columns in the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century years, but have done so in a less elaborate and ornate manner. This reassertion of classically derived forms on a monumental scale after a Victorian remodeling of an early nineteenth-century Federal style building undoubtedly reflects the influence of the widespread, Beaux-arts revival which followed the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. The variety of stylistic details that have been absorbed into the basic structure is reflected in the furnishings which have been brought to the house by several generations. Together the house and furnishings reflect the long history of the home's construction.

In 1810 Oliver Hillhouse Prince built the two-story Federal style house that makes up the front section. Prince, born in Connecticut, came to Wilkes County as a boy of fourteen with his uncle, David Hillhouse. After he was commissioned by the State of Georgia in 1822 to lay out the city of Macon, he moved from Washington and sold his house in 1825 to Augustus Gibson. Subsequently, between 1828 and 1829 Prince served in the United States Senate. He was living in Athens, where Prince Avenue bears his name, when he died in a shipwreck off the North Carolina coast in 1837.

When Alexander Pope bought the Prince House from Augustus Gibson on June 8, 1825, he was apparently already in residence there. Pope then purchased for the lumber the old 1785 Wilkes County Courthouse, which was still standing opposite the public square where a new courthouse had been built in 1817. From this he made the two-story, four-room addition that is the back of the present house. Evidence of this step is extant in the foundation under the side porches and in the weatherboarding and exterior chimney in an upstairs closet. The house remained a Pope family home until 1873 when the Pope heirs sold the house and twenty acres to William Simpson, a prosperous cotton land owner and merchant from Sparta in Hancock County.

William Simpson was the son of a pioneer Wilkes County family. It was he who named the home Poplar Corner because of the large, crooked limbed poplar tree which stands in the northwest corner of the lot. Simpson made many changes in the house, including the Victorian remodeling of the exterior and similar period detailing of the dining room which replaced one previously used in the basement. After William's death in 1887, Poplar Corner became the home of his son, Dr. Robert Simpson, a greatly beloved physician who practiced medicine in Wilkes County for sixty years. He had returned to Washington after graduation from the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons, and study in Germany. Dr. Simpson renovated the house and in 1905 added the colonnade. He spent much time on the grounds

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Eliza Bowen, The Story of Wilkes County, Georgia (Marietta, 1950).
 Federal Writer's Project, W.P.A., The Story of Washington-Wilkes (Athens, 1941).
 Annie Hornaday Howard, Georgia Homes and Notable Georgians (Atlanta, 1929).
 Willis C. Lindsey, Sr., Homes and Sites of the Residents of Washington, Wilkes County, Georgia, compiled 1953-1958.
 Willis C. Lindsey, Sr., A History of Washington, Wilkes County, Georgia, typewritten bound manuscript.
 Emma Stephens Wilson, "The Story of One House and Its Furnishings, Washington, Georgia," typescript.
 Photographs in the Stephens family collections.
 Elizabeth A. Lyon, personal inspection, September, 1971.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		33	44	3
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0		82	44	35
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2.85 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

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CY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Dr. Elizabeth A. Lyon, consultant for Washington-Wilkes Historic Foundation

ORGANIZATION: **Department of the History of Art** DATE: **October 25, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Emory University

CITY OR TOWN: **Atlanta** STATE: **Georgia** CODE: **13**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 80-665), 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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Mary Gregory Smith</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>January 12, 1972</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert M. Utley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>APR 11 1972</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>William Hunter</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>APR 11 1972</u></p>
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

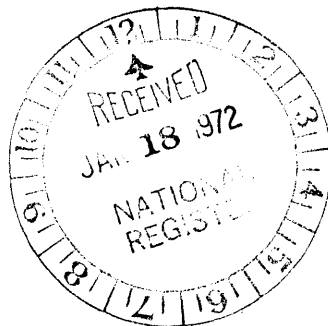
STATE Georgia	
COUNTY Wilkes	
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APR 1 1972	

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

arranging the flower gardens and shrubbery which are still extant. At his death he left the property to his nephew and namesake, Dr. Robert G. Stephens, who, at age ninety, lives there today.

Poplar Corner has been the home of several prominent Washington families who have all made contributions to the life of the county. Their home still makes a forceful and monumental impression in its gardens on a street that now includes later and smaller homes.



STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA
 DIVISION OF HIGHWAY PLANNING
 IN COOPERATION WITH
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

CITY MAP
WASHINGTON
 WILKES COUNTY

SCALE IN FEET
 0 660 1320

POPULATION 4440 (1960)
 1969

G.M.D. 64

G.M.D. 179

