CITY, TOWN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

STATE

RECEIVED JUN 2 1 1979

AUG | 4 1979

DATE ENTERED

SEE	NSTRUCTIONS IN HOW T TYPE ALL ENTRIES (			
1 NAME				
HISTORIC				
	11-Holder House			
AND/OR COMMON	11 ((0)40) ((0400			:
Ho1de	r House			
2 LOCATION	J			
STREET & NUMBER				
1402 Vernon Road			NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN		congressional district vicinity of Third - Jack Brinkley		
LaGra STATE	nge	VICINITY OF CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Georg	ia	13	Troup	285
3 CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
_XBUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	_WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE OBJECT	PUBLIC ACQUISITION IN PROCESS	ACCESSIBLE _XYES: RESTRICTED	ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT	RELIGIOUS
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFICTRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	_OTHER:
4 OWNER OF	PROPERTY		<del></del>	
NAME Dr. J	ames S. Holder			
STREET & NUMBER	umes of Horaci			
	Vernon Road			
CITY, TOWN	20	VICINITY OF	STATE Coopering 20	0240
LaGra 5 LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR		Georgia 3	0240
COURTHOUSE,	. 01 011 3 0			
REGISTRY OF DEEDS,	ETC. Superior Court			
STREET & NUMBER	buper for court			
	Troup County Court	thouse		
CITY, TOWN	l a Cuan ma		STATE	
	LaGrange	NIO GLIDIATIO	Georgia	
6 REPRESEN	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
TÎTLE				
None				
DATE		FEDERAL	_STATECOUNTYLOCAL	-
DEPOSITORY FOR				
SURVEY RECORDS				



#### CONDITION

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_UNALTERED XALTERED

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

X ORIGINAL SITE \_\_MOVED DATE\_\_\_

\_\_EXCELLENT X\_GOOD \_\_RUINS \_\_FAIR \_UNEXPOSED

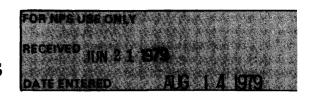
#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ferrell-Holder House is an antebellum, Greek Revival cottage, with interior and exterior alterations dating from the early-twentieth century. One-story high, it has a nearly square plan (approximately 48' by 36'). The house rests on a foundation of crude stone piers connected by brick infill panels. Hand-hewn beams support the main floor. The house is covered by a broad hip roof with a single hipped dormer on the front. The roof is surfaced with composition shingles. Rafters and ceiling joists visible in the attic are made entirely of milled dimension lumber fastened together with common wire nails, with the exception of robust, ladder-like trusses fashtoned from thick, notched timbers running horizontally across the ends of the house at the level of the side eaves. The house has a portico-like front porch and several rear additions in the form of two wings flanking a central section with a doorway. There are two interior chimneys rising through the roof.

The exterior detailing of the Ferrell-Holder House is classically derived, although the various elements and motifs span a century in design and execution. The original windows on the front and sides are symmetrically arranged and framed in simple architrave moldings. The front windows were originally floor length, but were shortened in the early-twentieth century. All the original multiple-paned, double-sash has been replaced by nine-overone double-sash, and aluminum storm windows have been installed. The front doorway is a typical trabeated Greek Revival composition with side and transom lights and paneled pilasters. The portico features four widely spaced, fluted Roman Doric columns supporting an entablature with a frieze of vertical, beaded tongue-and-groove boards. The house is sheathed in clapboards (apparently not original, since there is no trace of the floor-length front windows in the siding) which terminate in beaded corner boards.

The interior of the Ferrell-Holder House originally had a four-roomwith-central-hall plan and two interior chimneys (a typical antebellum Greek Revival arrangement). This arrangement was altered early in the twentieth century. A bathroom and a closet were added to the south room, and a fireplace and mantel were removed. In addition, a sleeping porch, bathroom, and closet were added at the west corner of the house; the rear hall was opened onto a rear porch, and a kitchen and pantry were added to the rear of the dining room. Ceilings throughout the house may have been lowered from twelve to ten feet, doorways into the hall may have been replaced by taller doors with transom lights, windows may have been replaced by nine-over-one sash, and the roof may have been rebuilt at this time as well. The interior was altered again in 1937, this time more extensively, according to plans drawn by the prestigious Atlanta architectural firm of Ivey and Crook. The original four-room-with-central-hall plan was changed by combining the front

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hall and east room into one large living room. The fireplace with its original mantel, and the chimney, were relocated to the middle of this new living room wall; the fireplace in the north room, shifted correspondingly, was closed. The rear hall was partly lined on both sides with closets. Ceilings and walls were replastered, and new cornice trim was provided. The original wide pine floorboards were covered by narrower hardwood floorboards. In addition to these changes, the rooms added to the rear of the house in the early-twentieth century were enlarged and remodeled. The sleeping porch was largely enclosed, and a new bedroom was added behind it. Two new bathrooms and a closet were installed. The rear porch was replaced by a study. The kitchen and pantry were remodeled.

The Ferrell-Holder House is set on landscaped grounds which date back well into the nineteenth century. The front yard is essentially a broad, level lawn dominated by two huge magnolia trees on either side of a front walk. Close by the house, the front walk is bordered by boxwood hedges which extend from the front walk toward the sides of the lot and around the sides of the house. Smaller trees, shrubbery and flower gardens complete the land-scaping of the front yard. The side yards are similar to, but less extensive than, the front yards, and towering hardwood trees play the role of the magnolias. A paved driveway runs along the southwest edge of the property from the street in front to a parking area behind the house. A brick security fence crosses the property on either side of the house. The rear yard, beyond the paved parking area, is informally landscaped with trees, shrubs and grass.

There are two outbuildings associated with the Ferrell-Holder House. One, to the north of the house, is a small, one-story, wood-framed, gable-roofed tenant/servant house. This house contains several floor-length windows and one fireplace mantel which were removed from the main house during remodeling. The other outbuilding is an early-twentieth-century, prefabricated -steel barn, located northwest of the main house.

#### Boundary Justification

The Ferrell-Holder House was once part of a large farm. This land has not been farmed since the early-twentieth century. Much of the property has subsequently been subdivided and sold. To the north and east of the house

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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is a recently developed subdivision. To the south, across the street in front of the house, is another residential area. The fields which once stretched to the west and southwest are now uncultivated and overgrown with trees and undergrowth. With this as the present setting, only 5.06 acres are being nominated, this being all that is owned by the present owners. It is felt impractical to nominate anything larger, due to the development mentioned above.

—PREHISTOHIC —ARCHEOLOGY —1400-1499 —ARCHEOLOGY —1500-1599 —AGRICULTURE —1600-1699 —  XARCHITECTUR	-HISTORICCONSERVATIONECONOMICS	NGLANDSCAPE ARCHITECTULAWLITERATURE	SCIENCE
1500-1599AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	— <del>-</del> ·	
		LITERATURE	
1600-1699			SCULPTURE
	EEDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X_1800-1899COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTL	EMENTPHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
X1900COMMUNICAT	IONSINDUSTRYINVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	Xother (specify) Local History

b. Neddar Filhela

The Ferrell-Holder House is significant in architectural and local history. Architecturally, it is significant because it reflects the continuous use of classical designs; and, in local history, it is significant as the home of Mickleberry Ferrell, a pioneer settler of LaGrange whose daughter created the Ferrell Gardens on part of his original tract of 202-1/2 acres. These gardens were well known throughout western Georgia.

The Ferrell-Holder House is significant in the history of architecture in Georgia because it demonstrates the long life of the Classical styles in Southern domestic architecture. From its antebellum origins to the 1930s renovations, the house has continuously embodied Classical designs ranging from the nineteenth-century Greek Revival to the twentieth-century Neo-Classical. Throughout its history, the house has maintained an integrity of appearance and character, if not of material, that gives testimony to the durability and adaptability of the Classical traditions. The Ferrell-Holder House also demonstrates the continuing importance of the Classical image in Georgia architecture.

The strength of the Classical architectural traditions is further demonstrated by the ways in which the Ferrell-Holder House was built, enlarged, and renovated. The original antebellum house was undoubtedly built by a master carpenter who, perhaps in consultation with the owner, probably relied upon builders' handbooks for the plans of the house. The twentieth-century renovations were designed by the prestigious Atlanta architectural firm of Ernest Ivey and Richard Crook, whose Neo-Classical work is well known in the South and includes several buildings at the college in LaGrange. Regardless of the means, however, the end result remained the same: unpretentious Classical architecture in a domestic situation.

Throughout its history, the Ferrell-Holder House has also been a good example of the Classical traditions in domestic architecture. In its original condition, it was an excellent example of a small Greek Revival house in Georgia, with the characteristic four-room-with-central-hall plan, the

#### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Personal inspection by Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., and Richard Cloues, December 5, 1978. Telephone interviews with Mrs. Paul Hammett, Jr., Mrs. James S. Holder, and Mrs. Mary Jane Crayton, all of LaGrange, Georgia; Mrs. Freeman Jelks, Sr., of Savannah, Georgia; and Mrs. Wilmer Davis of Atlanta, Georgia, 1978-1979. Draft National Register nomination prepared by Mrs. Paul Hammett, Jr., April 2, 1972. (Continued) **10** GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_ 5.06 LaGrange, Ga. QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000 QUADRANGLE NAME UTM REFERENCES 3,615,617,4,0 Al 1, 6 | 16 | 8, 1 | 7, 7, 5 EASTING **NORTHING** ZONE VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION See attached plat map. 1.07061 LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES STATE CODE. COUNTY CODE CODE CODE COUNTY STATE NFORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., historian; Richard Cloues, architectural historian Historic Preservation Section, Ga. Dept. of Natural Resources March 1979 STREET & NUMBER **TELEPHONE** 270 Washington St., S.W. 656-2840 CITY OR TOWN STATE Atlanta Georgia **12** STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS: LOCAL X NATIONAL \_\_\_\_ STATE\_ 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 Dr. Eljzabeth A. Lyon DATE TITLE Acting State Historic Preservation Officer FOR NPS USE ONLY PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE TTEST: DATE CHEFOR REGISTRATION

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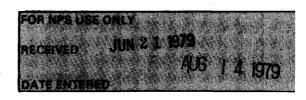
foundation of brick piers, and the careful attention to symmetry, proportion and such details as corner boards, window surrounds, and especially the front doorway. In its present condition, the Ferrell-Holder House reveals vestiges of this original Greek Revival design, but the plan and detailing have been updated with fine examples of Neo-Classical design including the opening up of the floor plan, the new windows, and the moldings around the ceilings, doorways, and windows.

Mickleberry Ferrell (1787-1861), a North Carolina native, moved with his parents to Hancock County, Georgia, and after his first marriage, to Jones County. Both counties were heavily populated with migrating cotton planters who came from the Carolinas and Virginia seeking more and better farm lands. After Georgia's westernmost lands were opened for white settlement in 1827, Ferrell bought Land Lots 111 and 114, each consisting of 202-1/2 acres, from Robert Browning, a land speculator. Lot 114, on which this house rests, sold for \$1,100 on March 9, 1832. The deeds for the two lots indicate that Ferrell had moved to Troup County by 1832. This house is presumed to have been built by Ferrell during 1832-33, as reflected by its architectural styles. It is unlikely that Browning would have built any house while speculating.

Mickleberry Ferrell was active in the civic, religious and fraternal life of LaGrange, although his home (the nominated property) was not within the city limits until the twentieth century. It is only 1-1/2 miles from the courthouse, yet was at its height a thriving plantation. Ferrell served in the state legislature in 1843 and helped form the Masonic Lodge in 1842.

Ferrell and his second wife, Nancy Coleman (1799-1889) brought with them their growing family. Their oldest daughter, Sarah (1817-1903) in 1835, married her double first cousin, Blount C. Ferrell. Upon this marriage, her father divided his holdings, the newlyweds getting property to the east of the present home, but on the same land lot. Sarah is said to have imported landscape gardeners from Ireland to construct the famous Ferrell Gardens, which were featured on many postcards of the area. The gardens, described in the <u>Garden History of Georgia</u>, <u>1733-1933</u> as "the apotheosis of all Georgia box gardens," were always private, open only upon request both by the Ferrells and, after 1913, the Calloways. The remainder of the gardens are now part of the Fuller E. Calloway Home, "Hills and Dales."

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In 1859, after over 25 years in Troup County, Mickleberry Ferrell sold his house and adjacent 28 acres to James H. Fannin, who had married in 1857 the youngest Ferrell daughter, Julia. Ferrell then went west, speculating on additional lands. He died in 1861 at the home of another daughter in Louisiana. He apparently was not able to rid himself of the desire for more and better farmlands to add to his holdings—the goal of the Ferrells and so many others who had come to Georgia in the early part of that century.

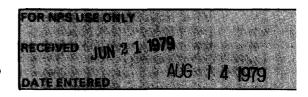
After Ferrell's death, and during the Civil War, the house and 28 acres remained in the possession of James and Julia Ferrell Fannin for only a few years. Fannin, who distinguished himself during the Civil War and later served in the state legislature, built another house to the north of this property and sold the nominated house and 28 acres to George C. Heard on November 13, 1865, for \$3,500. The rest of the Mickleberry Ferrell estate was sold to Fannin in 1868 at a public estate sale on the courthouse steps. Although several other Ferrell family homes were built nearby, this is the only one remaining associated with the family.

George C. Heard (1809-1877) had been a farmer and a slave trader, but by the time he bought this estate, he had dropped his second occupation. He and his wife, the former Sarah V. Walker, reared their family here. Mrs. Heard lived on at the house after his death, rearing her sons and later several of her grandsons there until her death in 1909. It is very doubtful that she made any changes to the property during her long widowhood.

After Mrs. Heard's death, the house and 28 acres were sold for \$2,000 to C.T. Freeman, a local real estate developer. The property was advertised:

The last close-in suburban residence and premises about LaGrange. It is just outside the corporate limits of the city right at the noted Ferrell Gardens or Terraces and on the finest driveway about the city. It has 28 acres, many ornamental trees and flowers and excellent water. The streetcar line for which the city has granted a franchise and required to begin work soon, will put the purchaser in town. LaGrange will be glad to see another fine home in this beautiful section that can't be excelled.

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In the administrator's sale it was also indicated that the home was the "last of the beautiful homes with acreage sufficient for a fine suburban home, a poultry plant, dairy or vegetable farm, and in a neighborhood not excelled for its people and pretty homes."

After the sale, Mr. Freeman, the new owner, indicated his plans to "make many improvements on this property and convert it into an ideal suburban home." He is credited with changing the roof line of the house, adding the dormer, removing the original front windows, and using many of these removed architectural details in the guest house or servants' quarters that he built on the grounds at this time. This outbuilding still exists.

Freeman sold the home and adjoining farm, consisting of 28 acres, for \$7,300 in 1917 to Forrest Truitt, indicating in the newspaper that the home was now in "West End" and one of the best improved "city farms." Apparently, Freeman had tried to start a subdivision around the home but was not successful.

The house was bought by C. V. Truitt for his son Forrest. The elder Truitt was an industrialist and one of the incorporators of several local cotton mills, the financial backbone of LaGrange.

Forrest V. Truitt was a prominent merchant of LaGrange dealing in farming supplies. In 1937, the Truitts hired the prestigious Atlanta architectural firm of Ivey and Crook to make changes to the house. The plans exist for these changes. Ivey and Crook are best known for a number of Georgia's finer structures, including several buildings at Emory University's Atlanta campus and several homes in the Druid Hills Historic District of Atlanta and the nearby college at LaGrange.

On April 3, 1948, the Truitts sold the house and 5.06 acres to Dr. James Smith Holder and his wife, the former Louise Haralson, who have lived there ever since. Dr. Holder was cofounder of the Clark-Holder medical clinic in LaGrange. He and Mrs. Holder have reared two sons there and have been active in civic affairs. They renamed the house "Boxwood Acres" for the enormous boxwoods in the front yard.

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Major Bibliographical CONTINUATION SHEET References ITEM NUMBER

9 PAGE

Smith, Clifford L. <u>History of Troup County</u> (1933). Troup County, Georgia, deeds, estate records, maps.

United States Census information 1850-1900.

Original plans to the 1937 changes by Ivey and Crook, now in possession of Mrs.

James S. Holder (donated by Mrs. Ralph Barker).

Newspapers (The LaGrange Reporter, The LaGrange Graphic) on microfilm at the Calloway Library, LaGrange.