

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JUN 21 1979

AUG 14 1979

DATE ENTERED

# 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

Ferrell-Holder House

AND/OR COMMON

Holder House

## 2 LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1402 Vernon Road

CITY, TOWN

LaGrange

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third - Jack Brinkley

STATE

Georgia

CODE

13

COUNTY

Troup

CODE

285

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

### CATEGORY

DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

### OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

X PRIVATE

BOTH

### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

### STATUS

X OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

### ACCESSIBLE

X YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

### PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dr. James S. Holder

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1402 Vernon Road

CITY, TOWN

LaGrange

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia 30240

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Superior Court

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Troup County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

LaGrange

STATE

Georgia

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

\_\_EXCELLENT  
☒GOOD  
\_\_FAIR

\_\_DETERIORATED  
\_\_RUINS  
\_\_UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

\_\_UNALTERED  
☒ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ORIGINAL SITE  
\_\_MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### 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 fashioned 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-over-one 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-room-with-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 landscaping 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

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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.

# 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 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. 1833, early 20th century BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

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## 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

QUADRANGLE NAME LaGrange, Ga.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 6181775 36156740

B               

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached plat map.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., historian; Richard Cloues, architectural historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

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:

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*  
Dr. Elizabeth A. Lyon

TITLE

Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 6/12/79

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

DATE

8-14-79

ATTEST:

*Catal Shue*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8/13/79

CHIEF OF 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 Garden History of Georgia, 1733-1933 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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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.