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The Cowles-Bond-O'Neal House, 138 Bond Street, built about 1836, is a two-story structure of pale brown stucco with green shutters and a small, circular iron balcony. The architecture shows a blending of Greek and Roman motifs, typical of the Classical Revival style, in the eighteen Doric columns which adorn the front and side of the portico. The entrance door, of heavily carved black walnut, is framed by a fanlight and deeply recessed sidelights.

Surrounded on three sides by a colonnade of Roman Doric columns, the house has a free-hanging, winding staircase reaching to the glass-covered cupola. A ballroom once extended the entire width of the house. Onestory, high ceiling wings were added in the eighteen fifties during the ownership of Joseph Bond, and front door and entrance were remodeled.

The mansion has been rearranged for school uses. The marble mantels and other fragile appurtenances have been removed from their original locations and are on storage for later re-installation.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.) This mansion-house has ever been Macon's masterpiece architecturally,

Jerry Cowles erected this Classical Revival Mansion in 1836 on the crest of the hill overlooking the valley of the Ocmulgee River, the Ocmulgee Old Fields of the Creek Indians (Ocmulgee National Monument), and the hills beyond. It was built by Elam Alexander for young Mr. Cowles who had come down from New York to try his fortune in Macon.

Surrounded on three sides by a colonnade of Roman Doric columns, the house has a free-hanging, winding staircase reaching to the glass-covered cupola. A ballroom once extended the entire width of the house. One-story, high ceiling wings were added in the 1850's during the swnership of Joseph Bond, and the front door and entrance were remodeled.

It was Cowles who, in the original list of subscribers to Wesleyan (originally Georgia Female College), made the largest contribution of any man in Georgia. He was one of the college's earliest trustees, and it was due to his efforts that "Encampment Hill" was secured from the city as the site for the college.

Cowles contributed in many ways to the early development of Macon. He was prominent in banking and railroad circles and was called the "irrepressible Railroadman of the Age".

The home on the hill became the home of the Joseph Bond family when the Cowles family moved back to New York in 1847. It was said of Bond; "He was the largest cotton grower and most successful planter in the State...he was a useful, liberal and enterprising citizen of Macon."

S.T. Coleman bought the house in 1879, shortly before the Macon newspaper included him in their list of self-made "merchant princes." Throughout the 1880's Coleman was engaged in efforts to build railroads in the State. He was a leader in establishing a public library in 1874, a wice-president of the newly organized Chamber of Commerce in 1883, and a director of the Macon newspaper in 1887.

The ballroom of the Coleman home was the scene of exclusive germans during the years following the close of the War, including a ball for Winnie Davis in 1887 when she and her parents, ex-Fresident of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis and Mrs. Davis, were guests of the Coleman's neighbors, Captain and Mrs. J. Marshall Johnston.

The mext family to occupy this house was that of J.W. Cabaniss, prominent in banking, business, and educational activities for many years.

In 1905 the house on the hill was acquired by the late B.P. O'Neal and was known as "Overlook." In recent years it has functioned as Stratford Academy, a private school, which is preserving it as a masterpiece in architecture and history.

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