Form 10-300 (Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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GEORGIA
COUNTY:

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FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is an exceptional example of Greek Revival architecture, three stories in height, with its raised main floor and Greek Doric portico, originally prostyle with aix fluted wood columns, continuous guttae on the architrave, applied wreaths on the frieze, and a sloping wood parapet or coaming with acroteria; later changes added well-matched columns of formed sheet metal on the East or Orange Street side and a rounded corner entablature, graceful in itself but not compatible with the symm etrical parapet which was removed, as were the frieze wreaths which may have posed as well a problem of aesthetic spaceing.

Early photographs show metal railing grilles, possibly of diagonal spun wire with cast rosettes, between columns; these were replaced with turned balusters and molded handrail of wood, placed at outer edge of the portico and gracefully curved into quarter points of the column diameters. Intact are the original granite entrance steps and wrought iron handrails in curved pattern flanking a centered niche; reminiscent of S avannah designs of William Jay, the pickets flare gently at their tops to be normal to both curve and rake of the handrail. Newels of the railings are said to have been topped with solid (?) silver balls, long since misappropriated, and they now have brass balls kept in high polish by the present Owners.

A balcony over the front entrance doorway has a classic wood balustrade and configurations beneath, but an unusual bracket support at each side which is a simple cyma reversa shape in vertical position, as opposed to the more common double scroll bracket or modillion in horizontal position, indicates that this may have been an alteration of the front entrance.

Inside, the floors are rift-sawn edge-grain wide pine boards, maintained in good condition and natural finish; a single exception is the entrance hall where the second owner of record saw fit to install a mosaic pattern of marble and faience tiles, which despite its incompatibility is not unattractive of itself and in any event cannot detract from the effect of the whole. Door and window trim is in keeping, with reeded stiles and head, and carved acanthms-pattern corner mosettes. Doors are an unusual flat 3-2-3 panel pattern on the main floor, and raised 2-panel pattern on the upper floor. Cornices are a separated 2 or 3-member classic assembly on the main floor, and an unusual 2-member joining of a quite wide cyma recta crown mold, evidently of plaster, with bed mold beneath, on the upper floor.

Fireplace mantels in each of the eight original rooms, which must have been wood of simple restrained design, have been replaced with marble of Italian influence, probably acquired from other neighboring mansions during a change of ownership. These have enhanced and not detracted from the original property.

The Basement, lastly, attests a way of life long gone but eternally recorded, in its accommodations for servants and its wine and meat storage cellars, all of which are still evident despite conversion to a living apartment.

As to neighborhood, the house is an indispensable element of a preserved community and atmosphere which, though threatened, has not been encroached upon by commerce, and in fact is flanked by distinguished residences of comparable elegance.

There is Information in reference to Elam Alexander, Macon's great builder, in the comments about Jerry Cowles' cottage.

8.

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 Applicab	le and Known) C. 1840	
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	Music	Transportation [

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

This house is pictured in the Library of Congress as an outstanding example of Greek Revival Architecture.

It was built about 1840 by Judge Thaddeus Goode Helt, after a design by Elam Alexander. This is one of the few old residences in the state having the horseshoe entrance steps with wrought iron railings. There are also curved wooden banisters between the round, fluted columns on the front portice.

The house is an indispensable element of a preserved community and atmosphere which, though threatened, has not been encroached upon by commerce, and in fact is flanked by distinguished residences of comparable elegance.

Three generations of the Holt family and other prominent Maconites occupied this house, contributing to Macon's importance and development.

Judge Thaddeus Geode Holt - Judge of the County Court; Governor's aide accompanying General LaFayette on his 1825 visit to Macon; First Chairman off Board of Health when organized in 1834; Raised funds to send Macon Volunteers to aid Mexico win independence; Director of Monroe Railroad and Banking Company; A Director of Macon Manufacturing Company, forerunner of Bibb Manufacturing Company, which become one of the nation's leading textile firms; Member of City Council; Worked to maintain stable Confederate currency; Thaddeus Goode Holt, Jr. - Officer in several Confederate military units; active in civic and charitable affairs; one of the incorporators in 1876 of the Public Library and Historical Society; in 1879 elected to the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Academy for the Blind, the first school in the state for the teaching of blind children which was founded here in Macon in 1852; Judge of the County Court.

Nanaline Holt - Granddaughter of Judge Thaddeus Goode Holt and daughter of Captain T.G. Holt, Jr.; After an early marriage to Will Imman of the pioneer Atlanta family, married James Buchanan Duke, the tobacco magnate, and became the mother of Doris Duke, "the world's richest woman".

The house was sold to <u>Joseph Dannenberg</u> in 1884, and he made several changes which enhanced the beauty of the former Holt family home. He founded a highly successful retail and wholesale business; was a city alderman; was influential on Board of Trade in securing municipal ownership of water system; was member of Board of Public Works; subscribed liberally for a city hospital; was on the Board of Macon newspaper.

Other prominent owners of this attractive place were: E.L. Martin, president of the Georgia-Alabama Business College; Leon I. Dure who was active and influential in politics and business; the Amp Peelers, organizers of Peeler Hardware Company; and now, Mr. and Mrs. William A. Snow, Jr., who acquired the house in 1964 to make it their home and their life-time hobby, to preserve the house and grounds as a show place to be enjoyed by every passerby as they have been for well over a century.

Butler, John C. History of Macon and Central Georgia. Macon, Georgia, 1879.

Jones, Mary Callaway. Macon's Heritage in Architecture. Macon, Georgia, 1939, revised 1957.

McKay, Blythe. "Greek Revival House of 1840's..." The Macon Telegraph and News. June 21, 1964.

Perkerson, Medora Field. White Columns in Georgia. New York, 1952. Young, G holson & Hargrove. The History of Macon, Georgia 1823-1949. Macon, Georgia, 1950.

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Form	10-301
(July	1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
GEORGIA	
COUNTY	
BIBB	
FOR NPS USE O	NLY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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