

PH0023141

6th Congressional District
John J. Flynt, 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: Coweta
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER JAN 20 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Gordon-Banks House

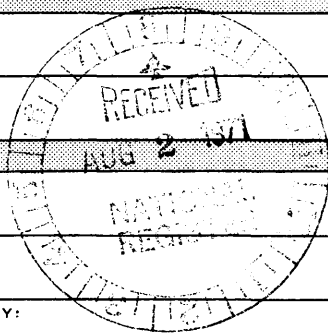
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 4 U.S. 29

CITY OR TOWN:
Newnan vic. (S)

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Coweta CODE: 077



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" 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:
Mrs. William Nathaniel Banks

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 4

CITY OR TOWN:
Newnan

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Coweta County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Newnan

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Building Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934, 1936 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D.C.

CODE:
08 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Georgia

COUNTY: Coweta

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: JAN 20 1972

DATE: 08 11

7. DESCRIPTION

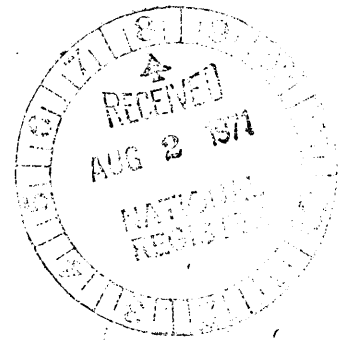
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A massive, two-story house of white clapboards, built in Haddock, Georgia circa 1827. The style is classical revival - rather Roman than Greek - with a pair of attenuated, fluted Tuscan columns rising from an entrance porch to a balcony and simple pediment. Opening onto the porch and balcony are paneled double doors with exceptionally fine fanlights with wooden muntins, the lower semicircular, the upper elliptical. (There are also semicircular fanlights in the gable ends of the house.) Flanking the doors are a pair of fluted pilasters, which appear also at the corners of the facade. The house has four high-ceilinged rooms with a wide center hall on both floors. A circular stair ascends three flights to the attic and terminates in a dome with plaster decorations. The interior details are unusually refined for the Georgia Piedmont. All eight of the mantels are intact, each of a different design of Adam inspiration; and the downstairs rooms and the hallways still have the original paint. Each room is decorated with a different pattern of trompe-l'oeill wood-graining and/or marbleizing on the mantels, doors, baseboards and wainscots; and the drawing room and dining room have elaborate plaster ceiling decorations and cornices. Flanking the fireplace in the drawing room are a pair of Adamesque niches defined with gilt acanthus leaves and Corinthian pilasters. (Frederick Nichols has described this room as "certainly one of the handsomest Federal rooms in Georgia.") In the downstairs hall acanthus leaves also decorate an arch which has unusual plaster panels.

When the house was moved to Newnan in 1969-70, wings (compatible with Daniel Pratt's original design) were added to replace the original out-buildings - kitchen, carriage house, etc. - which had long since been destroyed. The house now commands a terrace overlooking a tapis vert and a small lake. Surrounding the house are gardens which have been developed since the late 1920's.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

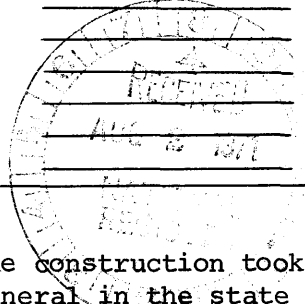
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1827; 1969-70

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input 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 Gordon-Banks House was begun in 1827, and the construction took several years. It was built for John W. Gordon, a general in the state militia and a wealthy cotton planter. The architect-builder was Daniel Pratt, who was born in Temple, New Hampshire, in 1799, and who after a four-year apprenticeship to a carpenter in a neighboring village, sailed from Boston to Savannah to seek his fortune in the South. After a year in Savannah Pratt went to Milledgeville, then the capital of the state; and from 1821 to 1831 he built seven or eight extraordinary classical town houses and plantation seats in Baldwin and Jones counties. Frederick Nichols has described them as "one of the most interesting groups of houses in upper Georgia," and in fact they are unique in the architecture of the southern Piedmont. In the 1820's Milledgeville was enjoying a boom economy when fortunes were sometimes made in a season; and its closely knit society was less urbane than its counterpart in Savannah and Charleston, it was lively and competitive and it had a penchant for elegance and high living. The houses that Pratt built there not only have intrinsic architectural value, they also document a colorful social era. In the 1830's Pratt moved to Alabama and founded the town of Prattville, where he made a fortune manufacturing cotton gins; and for many years he was the greatest industrialist of the state.

In 1848 John Gordon sold his house to Dr. Horatio Bowen, who installed his son Thomas and his family there. The Bowens occupied the house during the Civil War and the Reconstruction years, and in 1880 Thomas Bowen sold it to his brother-in-law, James Blount, of Macon. The Blount family never lived in the house, using it only for summer holidays; and it was unoccupied for many years until it was removed to its present location in Newnan.

William N. Banks, the present owner's son, composed the above account. He has been too modest to put his achievement into the perspective it deserves. When the Gordon House was acquired for refurbishment as Mrs. Banks' residence, it was isolated and abandoned but in a superb and miraculous - yet fragile - state of natural preservation. By moving the structure to the long established gardens of Bankshaven and lavishing the utmost tender loving care, William Banks has restored the house's locally almost unparalleled original luster. Appearing today essentially the way it did when Daniel Pratt finished the house, we venture to say it looks as Daniel Pratt dreamed his houses should always look. Robert B. Raley, AIA, of Wilmington, Delaware, a long time associate of the Henry Francis DuPont Winterthur Museum, assisted Mr. Banks.

William R. Mitchell, Jr.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

_____, Georgia, The American Guide Series, (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1946).
 Mitchell, William R., Jr., Personal Inspection, June 1971.
 Nichols, Frederick Doveton, The Early Architecture of Georgia, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1957).
 Schuler, Stanley, America's Great Private Gardens, (MacMillan, 1967).
 Williams, Carolyn White, History of Jones County, Georgia, (Macon: J.W. Burke Company, 1957).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

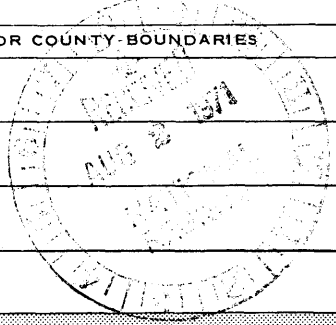
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	33 ° 20 ' 36 "	84 ° 47 ' 12 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	33 ° 20 ' 36 "	84 ° 46 ' 48 "				
SE	33 ° 20 ' 14 "	84 ° 46 ' 48 "				
SW	33 ° 20 ' 14 "	84 ° 47 ' 12 "				

No utm
CX

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **100 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: William N. Banks
William R. Mitchell, Jr., Director, Georgia Historic Sites Survey
 ORGANIZATION: Georgia Historical Commission DATE: July 28, 1971
 STREET AND NUMBER: Route 4
116 Mitchell St., S.W.
 CITY OR TOWN: Newnan STATE: Georgia CODE: 13
Atlanta

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:
 National State Local
 Name Mary Gregory Jewett
 Title State Liaison Officer
 Date July 28, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.
Eunice A. Connolly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 Date JAN 20 1972
 ATTEST:
J. Bradford
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date January 14, 1972