

PH0003166

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia
 COUNTY: Talbot
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE: MAY 7 1973



1. NAME
 COMMON: Towns, Persons, Page House
 AND/OR HISTORIC: George Washington Bonaparte Towns House

2. LOCATION
 STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway 208
 CITY OR TOWN: Talbotton CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 3rd - Jack Brinkley
 STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Talbot CODE: 263

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input 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: Gary D. Page
 STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway 208
 CITY OR TOWN: Talbotton STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Talbot County Court House Deed Book II, Page 277
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: Talbotton STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Georgia Historical Commission (Historic Marker)
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1961 Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Georgia Historical Commission
 STREET AND NUMBER: 116 Mitchell St., SW
 CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Georgia
 COUNTY: Talbot
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Towns-Persons-Page House, as its architectural features suggest, is an amalgamation of two two-story, 19th century houses to which was added a mid-19th century portico and several 20th century rooms.

Construction of the house began in 1828. To the rear side of this plain style, three bay, two story frame house was added another two story, three bay house with shed porch and rooms, thus forming an L-shaped structure. Also on the rear, even later additions were made. This two story section, c.1920-30, has a screened first floor porch with a 1940 frame second floor above. On the front facade was added a central, two story, four columned Ionic portico probably added sometime after 1838. In 1920 the two end gables of the main part of the house were altered to make a hipped roof.

Presently the house stands with these above mentioned additions. The front facade, most probably the earliest section, appears as a two story, three bay frame structure with a hip roof, end brick chimneys, and a two story central temple form portico and balcony. The windows all have side lights, now covered by shutters. It should be noted that the pilaster framed front doors, both balcony and entrance levels, are off-center to the portico, a fact suggesting the later addition of the portico.

On the interior, to the right side of the narrow entrance hall is the original wainscotted parlor, 19' X 15'. In this parlor is a plaster medallion centered in the ceiling and a late Federal period mantel, similar to the one in the bedroom across the hall. It is conjectured that these mantels were later additions to the 1828 house because the elaborate mantel shelves extend awkwardly into window and door frames. To the left of the parlor is a slightly smaller room, originally the master bedroom and plantation office. This room, similar in detail to the parlor, contains a small recessed wine closet with double doors. Behind this room is a cross hall which extends from one side porch to the other. Beyond this hall was the original dining room and ball room, 21' X 18 1/2 '. A small serving room extends from the left of the dining room.

The floor plan of the upstairs is very similar to the downstairs, except for two smaller rooms located above the dining room. The entire house was plastered except the cross hall, which has wide pine boards. All rooms are wainscoted, have wide heart pine floors, and have carved mantels, slightly less elaborate than the parlor.

Approximately 35 feet behind the main house is the original kitchen and privy, both constructed of brick laid in American bond. The kitchen has a simple gable roof, brick chimney, and two nine-over-nine windows on each of north and south facades. The privy, also with a gable roof and one door, has seven seats of varying sizes. The pit is constructed with two brick arches in the rear and has a flat stone foundation. The bricks are latticed in each gable to allow for ventilation. Measured drawings were made of this privy and an exact replica was constructed of it at the Stone Mountain State Park.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

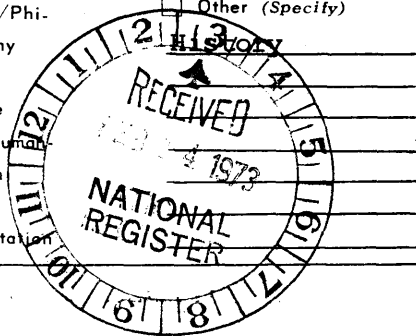
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1828**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <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 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 Towns-Persons-Page House is an example of what happened to vernacular architecture in Georgia as a family and its needs and stylistics wants grew and changed.

George Washington Bonaparte Towns, the original owner of the Towns-Persons-Page House, was born in Wilkes County, Georgia, in 1801, and was one of the early settlers in the town of Talbotton. He was appointed one of the Commissioners for the town when it was incorporated by an act of the General Assembly in 1828. Immediately after moving to Talbotton, he constructed a plantation plain style house, this being the first portion of the Towns-Persons-Page House. Town entered the practice of law in Talbotton and became very successful. In 1829 and 1830 he was elected as a representative from Talbot County and in 1832 he went to the state senate. In 1835 and 1837 he was a member of the U.S. Congress. He returned to Talbotton and practiced law until 1846 at which time he was again elected to fill a vacancy in the U.S. Congress.

In 1847 Towns was elected Governor of Georgia and served until 1851. During his term in office he obtained the adoption of the ad valorem method of taxation, led the fight for the amelioration of the slave code, completed the Western and Atlantic Railroad, and became an early advocate of free public education. He wrote Georgia's inscription on the Washington Monument - "The Constitution as it is, the Union as it was." When Town retired from the executive chair he moved to Macon to continue his law practice, but died soon after. About this time, c.1852-4, the Towns-Persons-Page House was acquired by the Persons' family who owned it until 1968 when it was purchased by Gary D. Page.

Stylistically the Towns-Persons-Page House is a reflection of the growing, rural life style of G.W.B. Towns. The primitively designed portico, probably crafted by the same local builder of the Straus-Levert Hall, the ballroom addition and the interior changes described on the facing page were probably made at the event of Towns' second marriage c.1838 to the daughter of John Winston Jones, a socially prominent and wealthy Virginian.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jordan, Robert H., There Was A Land (Columbus Office Supply Co., 1971).
 Malone, Dumas ed. Dictionary of American Biography. Vol IX, p. 615.
 Mitchell, William R. Personal Inspection. Summer 1972.
 Page, Gary D. Presented first draft of NR nomination form now on file
 at the Georgia Historical Commission.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

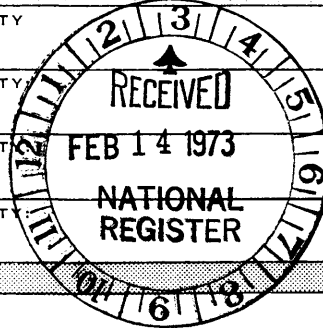
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		32 40 44	84 32 49	
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NO ATTN
CX

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **10 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Elizabeth Z. Macgregor

ORGANIZATION: **Georgia Historical Commission** DATE: **Nov. 29, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
116 Mitchell St., SW

CITY OR TOWN: **Atlanta** STATE: **Georgia** CODE: **13**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 November 29, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert W. Utley
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/7/73

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of the National Register

Date 4 30 73