

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0688151

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 20 1978  
DATE ENTERED JAN 8 1979

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  
The Old Dawson Place or "Gordonido" (since about 1913)  
AND/OR COMMON  
"Gordonido"; the Feighner's residence

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
1420 Wynnton Road  
CITY, TOWN  
Columbus  
STATE  
Georgia  
VICINITY OF  
Third - Jack Brinkley  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Third - Jack Brinkley  
COUNTY  
Muscogee  
CODE  
13  
CODE  
215

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Feighner  
STREET & NUMBER  
1420 Wynnton Road  
CITY, TOWN  
Columbus  
STATE  
Georgia

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Consolidated Government Center (Deed Books)  
STREET & NUMBER  
10th Avenue  
CITY, TOWN  
Columbus  
STATE  
Georgia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
1. Historic Columbus Buildings Inventory  
2. Columbus-Muscogee County Historic Buildings Survey  
DATE  
1. 1967  
2. 1976  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
1. Historic Columbus Foundation, Inc.  
2. Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources  
CITY, TOWN  
1. Columbus  
2. Atlanta  
STATE  
Georgia

# 7 DESCRIPTION

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on approximately two acres at the corner of Gordon Avenue and Wynnton Road, "Gordonido" is a two-story Greek Revival style residence begun about 1837 as the Wynnton area was first being settled, remodeled about 1918 when the Village of Wynnton was still outside the Columbus city limits, and "restored" in 1949 to more closely approximate its original early nineteenth century appearance.

Essentially unchanged from the earliest building period are the six fluted Doric columns of wood forming a superb peristyle with hip roof, the doorway done in the favorite Greek Revival manner with square antae, side lights, and lighted transom on both floors separated by a simple balcony. These three original Greek Revival features, the columned peristyle, the doorways on the first and second floors, and the balcony, constitute the basic features of the house around which alterations and additions were made in the twentieth century. ("Altered" is checked above only because the original old Dawson Place, when compared with the present day Gordonido and with the second period, c. 1918, is not precisely the same.) For example, in the second period, the frame house was stuccoed and wings were added on both sides and to the rear of the house; the hip or pyramid roof was truncated by a flat deck which, in the third period, was crowned by a filagree wrought-iron gallery. Also about 1918, the original Dawson Place entablature was embellished by a denticulated cornice, which was retained in 1949. Another major alteration during the second period was changed in the original first floor window configuration to create "French doors" which were changed in 1949 to match the original second story six-over-six windows. (The four bay window arrangement has always been retained from the original house; changes have only taken place on the first floor where the original six-over-nine fenestration disappeared about 1918, becoming in 1949 six-over-six.) In a telephone interview with James J. W. Biggers, FAIA, the architect in charge of the 1949 work, this consultant learned that Mr. Biggers was commissioned to make the house more closely approximate the original spirit and architectural character of Greek Revival Dawson Place somewhat altered in the c. 1918 remodeling.

Inside, the original wide hall and symmetrical academic plan remain from the c. 1837 house. A number of c. 1918 embellishments were retained in 1949 since they were quite handsome additions; the Classical Revival wood and plaster work in the entrance hall and major formal rooms were kept; clearly the fine classical pilasters in the Doric order, the classical plaster moldings and the carved chimney pieces of the First World War era (reminiscent of the Stanford White East Wing of the White House) were too good to discard even though they were undoubtedly not there when the house was conceived. (Research does not reveal conclusively the name of the architect for the early twentieth century remodeling; but it seems very likely to have been T. Firth Lockwood, Sr., an outstanding figure in Columbus architecture during that period. Lockwood did many houses in the Wynnton area prior to his death on April 7, 1920.)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" 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 c. 1837; c. 1918; 1949 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown; T. Firth Lockwood, Sr.; James J. W. Biggers, Sr., 1949

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Begun about 1837, extensively remodeled about 1918, and "restored" to approximate more closely the original conception in 1949, "Gordonido", originally called "the old Dawson Place", is one of the most beautifully designed and maintained of the Wynnton country estates. It is a vivid demonstration of how an original Greek Revival house evolved to become a twentieth century traditional or "period house", which many would rate as even more beautiful and architecturally significant than the original early nineteenth century house. In addition to its strictly architectural significance, the grounds, gardens, and setting are significant from the point of view of original community planning, early settlement, and landscape architecture as it has evolved in time from the nineteenth century to the present day. It is significant to the history of Columbus as the home of one of the early settlers of the city, John R. Dawson.

"Gordonido" stands on part of the original Coweta Reserve, a five-mile square, state-owned tract in land district eight, set aside for settlement by an Act of the Georgia General Assembly of June 9, 1825. In February 1828, the survey of this Reserve of land was begun by Edward Lloyd Thomas under the direction of five commissioners appointed by Governor John Forsyth; 1200 acres were laid out along the river as the town and commons of Columbus and 9240 acres were laid off as "Reserve lots" in the county adjacent to the town limits. The land on which "Gordonido" stands is on plot number 60 of that original survey. The land's original purchaser was William L. Wynn in April 1833. Wynn gave his name to the settlement which developed around his original 60 acre purchase and to the road on which both his house, at 1240 Wynnton Road, and "Gordonido", at 1420 Wynnton Road, stand. The Village of Wynnton remained outside of the city limits of Columbus in Muscogee County until 1925, developing as the town's finest suburban neighborhood.

The elevation of Wynnton is higher than the plain on which Columbus was laid out and "Wynn's Hill" where William Wynn built his house as a well-known historical geographical feature of the area. (The Wynn House at 1240 Wynnton Road, now the Christian Fellowship Association, was entered on the National Register in 1972.) Wynn sold John R. Dawson 5 1/8 acres in June 1837. The deed conveyed:

All that tract or parcel of land, lying and being in the County of Muscogee, State of Georgia, and lying and being in the reserve in said County made by the State of Georgia, and attached to the City of Columbus, and being designated as part of Number 60 in the survey of said reserve, commencing at the corner of the lot upon which the said William L. Wynn now lives...containing 5-1/8 acres, it being the lot on which the said Dawson now resides.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Biggers, James J. W., Sr., "Gordonido" plans, 1949; Personal Interview, 1978.  
 Boyd, Celia Gary, Form 10-300, 1970 draft for Historic Columbus Foundation, Inc.  
 Feighner, Mrs. Marguerite Richards, Interview, Personal Papers, Old Photographs, 1978.  
 Mitchell, William R., Jr., Research and Personal Inspection, 1978.  
 Warranty Deeds, June 23, 1837; October 1, 1885; Muscogee County.  
 Worsley, Etta Blanchard, Columbus on the Chattahoochee, Columbus Office Supply Company:  
 Columbus, Georgia, 1951.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 1.4 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Columbus

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 690520 35937000

B               

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION At the southwest corner of Wynnton Road and Gordon Avenue; 160 feet on Wynnton Road; 370 feet south on Gordon Avenue; 170 feet on 10th Street; returning north 370 feet from 10th Street to Wynnton Road, as shown on Muscogee County Tax Map 26, Block 24, Parcel 1 attached, revised January 24, 1978.

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

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE William R. Mitchell, Jr., Consultant, Historic Columbus Foundation, Inc.;  
Martha Norwood, Consultant, Historic Preservation Section

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Preservation Section

August 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

270 Washington Street, S. W.

404/656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Atlanta

Georgia 30334

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

Elizabeth A. Lyon

DATE

10/13/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*[Signature]*

DATE

1-8-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *[Signature]*

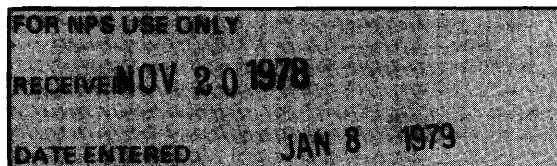
DATE

1/1/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** Description                      ITEM NUMBER    7                      PAGE            2

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The present day grounds of "Gordonido", including the large old trees and shrubs and extensive gardens, are a superb accumulation constituting one of the finest traditional landscape architecture displays in Georgia.

The present appearance of house and grounds in all features, from Wynnton Road to the rear curb on 10th Street, is that of a twentieth century "period house" of the most convincing nature, since the composition began as an early nineteenth century Greek Revival Wynnton estate. Present appearance results from a continuity of architectural taste, traditions, and features from the antebellum period until the present moment. (Such places used to be called "Southern Colonial Mansions" and, during its second period when the Frederick Barrett Gordons named it "Gordonido", it was no doubt so described.)

The attached three photographs from 1978, c. 1918, and c. 1870 (showing the house as originally conceived about 1840) may be studied for comparison.

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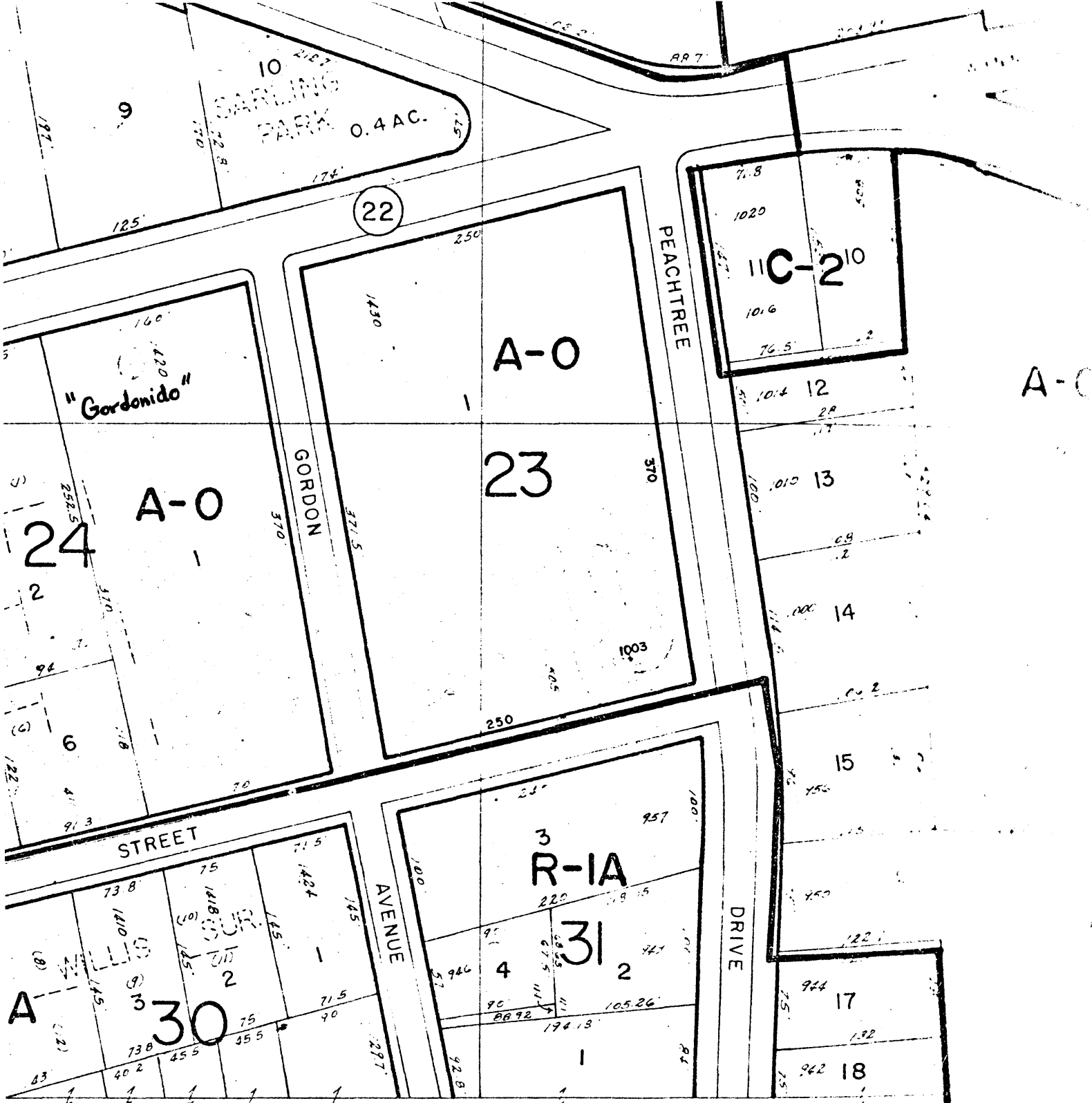
CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Dawson, of course, may or may not have already built the columned structure which became "Gordonido" when the Frederick Gordon's purchased the property in 1913, but he was probably in process of construction when Wynn sold him the acreage. Therefore, c. 1837 seems an accurate approximate original date.

John R. Dawson was a supply merchant for planters, a member of the firm of Hill and Dawson. He was the son of George Dawson who moved from Maryland to Georgia. John Dawson's brother, William, was an attorney and served in the United States Senate. Dawson died on October 29, 1852, and the house remained in the possession of his family until it was purchased by Mrs. Sallie L. Gilbert in 1880. (A warranty deed from Mrs. Gilbert to Mr. J. T. Willis dated October 1885 refers to the "land and house" as being the "old Dawson place" in the "Village of Wynnton".)

In 1913, Rosa Crook Gordon, Mrs. Frederick Barrett Gordon, purchased the property which, by that time, was the size shown on the current city tax map. Sometime soon after that purchase, the old house was remodeled to bring it up to contemporary standards and along basically Classical Revival stylistic lines retaining much of its original Greek Revival character. Wings were added on either side and to the rear; the house was stuccoed; and french windows were added to the first floor front. Architectural embellishments were also made inside to bring the house closer to early twentieth century Classical Revival taste. The architect was probably T. Firth Lockwood, Sr. (1868-1920) who did many residences in the fashionable Wynnton suburb. The Gordons renamed the house "Gordonido" meaning, in Spanish, Gordon's nest or residence. Mr. Gordon was a native of Massachusetts who became a leader of the Columbus textile industry. He was president of the Columbus Manufacturing Company. His wife, Rosa Crook Martin Gordon, an Alabama native, founded the Woman's Club of Columbus (which is located across Wynnton Road from "Gordonido"). The Gordons had two children, one of whom, Margaret, Mrs. Walter Alan Richards, inherited the house. In 1949, Mrs. Richards commissioned James J. W. Biggers, FAIA, of Columbus to restore the house to approximate its earliest original condition, at the time of John R. Dawson, retaining the best features of the remodeling commissioned by her parents. A copy of the plans for this work survive and are dated March 24, 1949. Mr. Biggers has been one of the leading architects in Columbus for half a century, is especially praised for his traditional, "period" residential work, and is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. The present owners of "Gordonido" are Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Feighner. Mr. Feighner is President of the Tom Huston Company and a Vice President of General Mills of which Tom Huston is a subsidiary. To quote a brochure distributed by Historic Columbus Foundation, Inc.:

Gordonido is exquisitely kept and one of the city's most beautiful homes. It is recognized as one of Columbus' most valued antebellum structures.



SHEET NO. 7-M

25

The Old Dawson Place/"Gordonido"  
Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia

Muscogee County Tax Map, Revised January 1978  
Map #026, Block 024, Parcel 1  
Scale 1" = 100'

NOV 20 1976