

PH0003239

10th Congressional District
Robert G. Stephens, Jr.

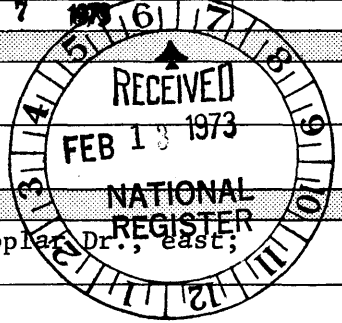
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

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: Wilkes	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAR 7 1973	6/17



1. NAME

COMMON: North Washington District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Area bounded by Jefferson St., west; Poplar Dr., east;
Route 78 By-Pass, north; Court St., south

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE Georgia	CODE 13	COUNTY: Wilkes	CODE 317
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<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: Multiple Owners

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Clerk of Superior Court, Wilkes County

STREET AND NUMBER: Court Street

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Georgia

COUNTY: Wilkes

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

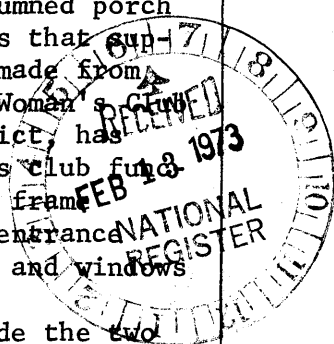
The northern section of Washington is bisected by Alexander Avenue and dominated by two major structures from contrasting architectural periods. The Gilbert-Alexander House, which occupies a high place on the eastern side on part of the original Gilbert plantation, is a Federal style red brick home with crisp white details and simplified geometric masses, while the Cedars, whose site was once part of the large Wingfield lands lying to the west of the Gilbert tract, presents an asymmetrically balanced, intricately detailed, High Victorian facade to Sims Street.

The Cedars, with its hilltop location that provides a long vista down to the business district, is an important part of the Victorian heritage of Washington and figures prominently in recent (1971) landscape and planning studies of the business district and public square.* Facing Sims Street a block away from the Cedars across Alexander Avenue is another large structure that complements the Victorian form of the Cedars. The red brick structure which served for many years as the Washington Public School was finished in 1897 and distinguished by "sanitary plumbing, central heating and electric lights." It now stands abandoned for more modern facilities, yet continues to make a forceful architectural impression in this section of town. The building has the asymmetrically placed tower, contrasting colors and texture of red brick and stone, and round arches of High Victorian styles like the Queen Anne and Romanesque revival. At the same time the late Victorian tendency toward more regular and balanced plans and smooth surfaced walls is present in the regularly spaced window pattern and symmetrically balanced end pavillions.

The contrasting characteristics of both earlier ante-bellum styles and later colonial and classic revival forms are present in the district. Across Alexander Avenue from the school is the Barksdale-Thomas home built originally by Francis Colley, who bought the land in 1838. The monumental Ionic portico was added to this house in 1909. The form, if not the details, of the older house can be seen in the gabled dormer above the portico and the porch on the south side of this two-story frame house. An old photograph shows a triangular gable over a second-story porch and a semi-circular side porch elaborated by Victorian spool-work. When the classical portico was added these features received comparable stylistic details. The entrance door, on the other hand, is framed by Doric pilasters and rectangular transom and side lights of an earlier manner indicating that this house, too, like so many others in the town, has grown in several periods. Across the street is another house which has been altered several times. The T.E. Gaines house, built in 1857 as the Female Academy, once stood on the site of the public school. Moved to a corner of the lot in 1897, it was then sold for a private residence. Its two-story Doric columned porch dates from later times and other details such as bracketed posts that support the one-story veranda indicate that alterations have been made from time to time. The building which now serves as the Washington Woman's Club further south on Alexander Avenue at the beginning of the district, has been altered on the interior to accommodate meetings and various club functions. The exterior, however, remains a simplified, two-story, frame building of plantation-plain style proportions to which a tall entrance porch on slender columns and Federal style details around doors and windows have been applied.

Other smaller structures of interest in the district include the two ante-bellum cottages opposite the Gilbert-Alexander House on Alexander

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Georgia	
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7. Description

Drive that once stood on the Alexander grounds, and the William Wynne House at the north end of the district on Alexander Avenue. The Wynne House is a two-story frame house whose Federal style entrance with its elliptical fan light and side lights suggests its 1830's date. Later porches have been attached to this basic structure. In addition, several late nineteenth-century homes with a varying amount of the characteristic detail of the period, line Alexander Avenue.

(*This study was done as part of the Washington Comprehensive Plan by students of landscape architecture from the University of Georgia.)



3. SIGNIFICANCE

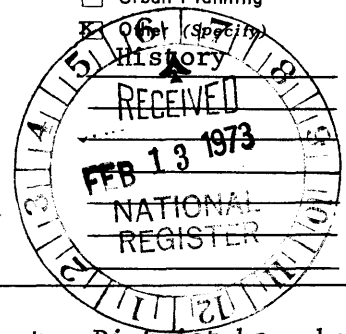
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **c. 1780-1910**

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) History
<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 two dominant structures in the North Washington District have been selected for separate nomination to the National Register because of their architectural and historic significance. Each represents well a definitive period of American architectural history. The quality and characteristic Federal style features of the Gilbert-Alexander House have long been recognized. Frederick D. Nichols gives considerable attention to the house in The Early Architecture of Georgia. If the later nineteenth-century Georgia developments were to receive comparable study, the Cedars would certainly be a characteristic example. Further, the interesting history of both houses is emphasized by the Georgia Historical Commission markers in front of each.

The lands for which these two houses have been the family homes are the North Washington District today. This area was once a part of two large plantations. The Wingfield lands were purchased in 1786 from George Walton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, who was originally granted the land. The Gilbert-Alexander plantation grew from lands on which, it is said, the family camped when traveling from Virginia in search of a place of settlement. Thomas Wingfield, who bought Walton's 1150 acres, was a son of John and Sarah Wingfield of Virginia. He came to Wilkes County about 1783 with his brother, John, who settled further from town in the southern portion of the county near Little River. Felix Gilbert arrived in Wilkes about 1784, about the same time as the Wingfields. The 400 acres of land which he bought from John Ray in 1786 for \$150 was originally granted to Edmund Carthage.

Part of the Wingfield lands, 59½ acres, were sold in 1792 to Dr. Anthony Poullain, a Revolutionary War surgeon who built the original part of the home now known as the Cedars. Later, Francis Colley bought this property and a second Colley home was built for his son, Henry Frank Colley, facing Alexander Avenue at the corner of Sims Street. This home was later occupied by Thomas J. Barksdale and his first wife, Frances Colley Barksdale. His second wife, Will Matt Sims, was also part of a family that made its home in the Cedars. Her father was Marshall Sims, who built the Victorian portion of this large structure to accommodate his large family.

The Gilbert Plantation ultimately grew much larger, extending far to the north of the city limits. The fifty-two-acre portion of this land, on which the Gilbert-Alexander House still stands, has remained in the possession of the descendants of the original settlers. A son of Felix Gilbert built the first portion of the house in 1808. His daughter Sarah married Adam Leopold Alexander in 1823 and came to live in the house. In part because of their large family, ten children who survived to adulthood, the Alexanders made two additions to the house, and it is their great-

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Eliza Bowen, The Story of Wilkes County, Georgia (Marietta, 1950).
 Georgia Writer's Project, W.P.A., The Story of Washington-Wilkes (Athens, 1941).
 Robert Marion Willingham, We Have This Heritage (Washington-Wilkes, 1969).
 Willis C. Lindsey, Sr., Homes and Sites of the Residents of Washington-Wilkes County, Georgia, compiled 1953-1958.
 Willis C. Lindsey, Sr., A History of Washington, Wilkes County, Georgia, typewritten bound manuscript.
 Grace Gilliam Davidson, Early Records of Wilkes County, Georgia, I, II (Macon, 1932).
 Frederick D. Nichols, The Early Architecture of Georgia (Chapel Hill, 1957).
 Elizabeth A. Lyon, personal inspection, July, September, 1971.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

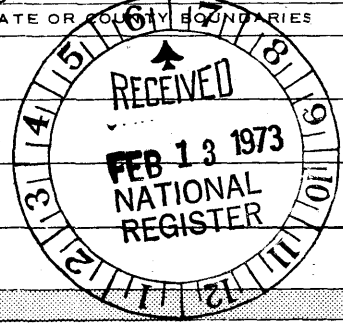
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	33° 44' 40"	82° 44' 22"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	33° 44' 40"	82° 43' 59"				
SE	33° 44' 12"	82° 43' 59"				
SW	33° 44' 12"	82° 44' 22"				

NO UTM
CX

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **126 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:
Dr. Elizabeth A. Lyon, consultant, Washington-Wilkes Historic Foundation

ORGANIZATION: **Department of the History of Art** DATE: **October 25, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Emory University

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

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 Feb. 9, 1973

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

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/7/73

ATTEST

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 3-1-73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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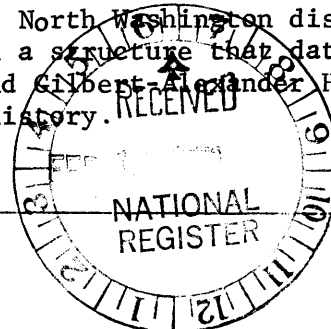
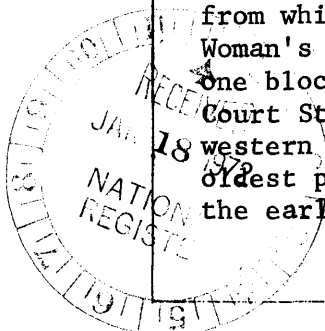
8. Significance

grandson who occupies the house today. In the family graveyard, surrounded by its old iron fence, the various generations are buried. Across Alexander Drive from the family homestead are two cottages which once stood in the grove of trees adjacent to the main house. One belonged to a beloved servant, Mammy Cynthia, who cared for the ten children of Adam Alexander and who is pictured in the family history, The Alexander Letters. Among these letters are two, written in 1848, which document the building of the second cottage. This small structure was built for David Hillhouse, an aging uncle of Adam's wife, Sarah. The letters record the price, \$350 or \$400, which was considerably less than the \$900-\$1000 which the Alexanders advised was the price of a good servant. The main entrance gate to the Gilbert-Alexander House was originally on the eastern side of the present Alexander Avenue opposite Court Street from which a driveway angled toward the house. When some of this land was later sold for homesites the entrance was moved to Alexander Drive. On the Alexander lands further to the east, marked by a Georgia Historical Commission plaque, is the spot where in 1790 the Reverend John Springer was ordained under a poplar tree. This tree attained a height of 155 feet and stood until the middle of the present century before it decayed and died.

The Alexander lands have also been associated with the educational history of Washington. Adam L. Alexander sold to the trustees of the Presbyterian Church land for a female academy in 1838 and this site subsequently housed the first Washington Public School. Washington did not have a public school until 1892, but several private schools and church academies were in operation throughout the town's early history.

On this side of Alexander Avenue north of the school and the old Female Academy building, now the Gaines home, is the site of an early Catholic church and an existing cemetery. Further up this side of the street is the William Wynne House, built in 1838 by Thomas Semmes in which in 1839 the first Catholic mass in Washington was celebrated.

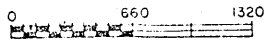
The section west of Alexander Avenue is still dominated by the rambling shape of the Cedars. A succession of families lived there before Marshall Sims bought the property in 1883 and added the large Victorian front portion. Two of his ten children live in the house today. Later developments have subdivided the acreage and smaller homes of the Victorian era and more recent periods have been built. This whole area, though, like the other districts of this historic town, has absorbed these later homes within a context of heavy plantings and trees that modifies architectural differences in scale and style. At the southernmost edge of the area opposite the place from which the driveway once led to the Alexander place, is the Washington Woman's Club, the former Griffin House which the club moved in 1929 from one block south on East Robert Toombs Avenue to face Alexander Avenue at Court Street. Its location marks the North Washington district on the western side of Alexander Avenue with a structure that dates, like the oldest portions of both the Cedars and Gilbert-Alexander Houses, from the earliest period of Washington's history.



STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA
DIVISION OF HIGHWAY PLANNING
IN COOPERATION WITH
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

CITY MAP
WASHINGTON
WILKES COUNTY

SCALE IN FEET



POPULATION 4440 (1960)
1969

82° 44' 22"

82° 44' 22"

G.M.D. 179

G.M.D. 184

33° 44' 40"

33° 44' 12"

