

PH0003221

10th Congressional District
Robert G. Stephens, Jr.

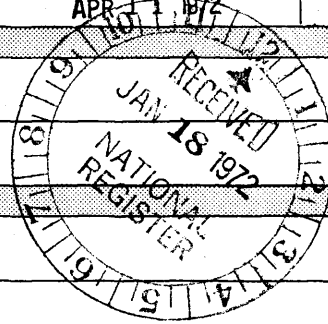
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

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	
	APR 11 1972	



1. NAME

COMMON:
Mary Willis Library
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Mary Willis Library

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Corner East Liberty and South Jefferson Streets
CITY OR TOWN:
Washington
STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Wilkes CODE: 317

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<u>Library</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Trustees of the Mary Willis Library
STREET AND NUMBER:
Corner East Liberty and South Jefferson Streets
CITY OR TOWN:
Washington STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Office of 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:
Washington Comprehensive Plan, Historic Area Study
DATE OF SURVEY: 1968 Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Georgia Historical Commission
STREET AND NUMBER:
116 Mitchell Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

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)

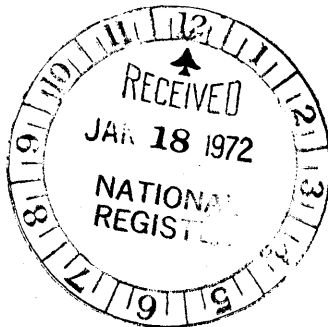
Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mary Willis Library was designed in 1888 by Atlanta architect Edmund G. Lind. The structure is one of the few developed High Victorian, Queen Anne buildings in Washington. The characteristic details of this style, asymmetrical massing, variety in color and texture, molded chimneys, irregular roof line and corner turret are all combined here in a well-scaled building of great warmth and charm that is eminently suited to its function.

The red brick surfaces are patterned to form bands under the roof-line and around the tower, vertical strips that articulate the side walls, and moldings in the chimneys. Stone, inserted in horizontal bands around the arched windows and used as keystones, provides both a color and textural accent. Terra cotta inserts in chimney faces and painted wood in gables add the further variety that is typical of the style.

Inside, similar contrasts of color and texture echo the richness of the exterior. The three rooms have wooden window frames, moldings and beams of pine, darkened with age. Fireplaces of molded and patterned brick with terra cotta inserts add a note of comfort to the main reading room. Stained glass windows, dedicated to Mary Willis, are enclosed in tall, slightly pointed arches in the Water Street facade while simpler geometric patterns of colored glass animate the side windows. The whole makes a unique and warm interior appropriate to its function as a reading room. One hopes that the planned additions of stacks and expansion of facilities will be housed in added space, leaving interiors as pleasant reading rooms.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input 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) 1888

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) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | | <u>History</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Library</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

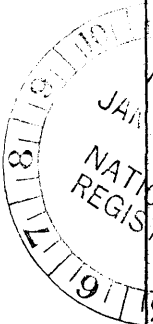
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mary Willis Library, founded in 1888, was Georgia's first free town and county library. The building which houses the library is an exceptionally fine example of High Victorian picturesque eclecticism that is unique in this area of Georgia. Such forms are more characteristic of a mid-nineteenth-century settlement like Atlanta where the library's designer worked. Edmund G. Lind was an important architect in Atlanta during the 1800's. He came to that city from Baltimore in 1881. He was born and educated in London, where he spent his early years of apprenticeship. One of the earliest members of the American Institute of Architects, he was elected a fellow in 1857. One of the buildings he is known to have designed before coming to Atlanta was the Peabody Institute in Baltimore, 1861, 1875-1878, a marble Renaissance structure with a library whose stacks were of ornamental cast iron. In Atlanta, Lind designed, among others, two buildings which are still standing, the Central Presbyterian Church and the Hotel Jackson (Bentley). Of these, the Jackson, with its mixture of brick, stone, marble and iron materials, is closest in general style to Lind's Washington building. Lind left Atlanta for Virginia in 1892. The architect's design for the Mary Willis Library is preserved in a lithograph in the library's collection. The drawing clearly shows, in crisply differentiated patterns, the variety of materials that Lind expected. The building as it now stands seems to be exactly as designed with the possible exception of the roof, which is not covered with the tiles of either wood or terra cotta which are indicated in the drawing.

The building of the Mary Willis Library was made possible through funds given by Dr. Francis T. Willis in memory of his daughter, Mary. Miniatures of Mary Willis and her husband, John Pembroke Jones, hanging in the main reading room and the stained glass windows perpetuate her memory. Dr. Willis was born in Wilkes County though his ancestors came from Virginia. He moved to Augusta, then to Savannah, and in 1867 to Richmond before returning in his late years to Washington. With Samuel Barnett, his half brother, Willis selected the nucleus of the original collection of 300 volumes. The building now houses over 18,000 volumes, and an additional building is being discussed. At his death in 1898 Dr. Willis gave an additional \$1200 to the library.

The Mary Willis Library, standing as it does at the corner of Liberty and Jefferson Streets, makes an impressive entrance to the Water-Liberty Street district beyond and its form complements well the range of brick business buildings that extend up Jefferson Street toward the business district.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Eliza Bowen, The Story of Wilkes County, Georgia (Marietta, 1950).
 Georgia Writers Project, W.P.A., The Story of Washington-Wilkes (Athens, 1941).
 Robert Marion Willingham, Jr., We Have This Heritage (Washington, 1969).
 Eloise and Henry Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects, deceased (Los Angeles, 1970).
 Elizabeth A. Lyon, "Business Buildings in Atlanta: A Study of Urban Growth and Form," unpublished dissertation, Emory University, 1971.
 Elizabeth A. Lyon, personal inspection of library building and collections, July, September, 1971.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

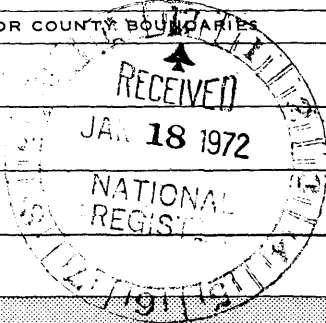
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		33° 44' 5"	82° 44' 20"	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

NO UTM
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **0.58 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Dr. Elizabeth A. Lyon, consultant for Washington-Wilkes Historic Foundation

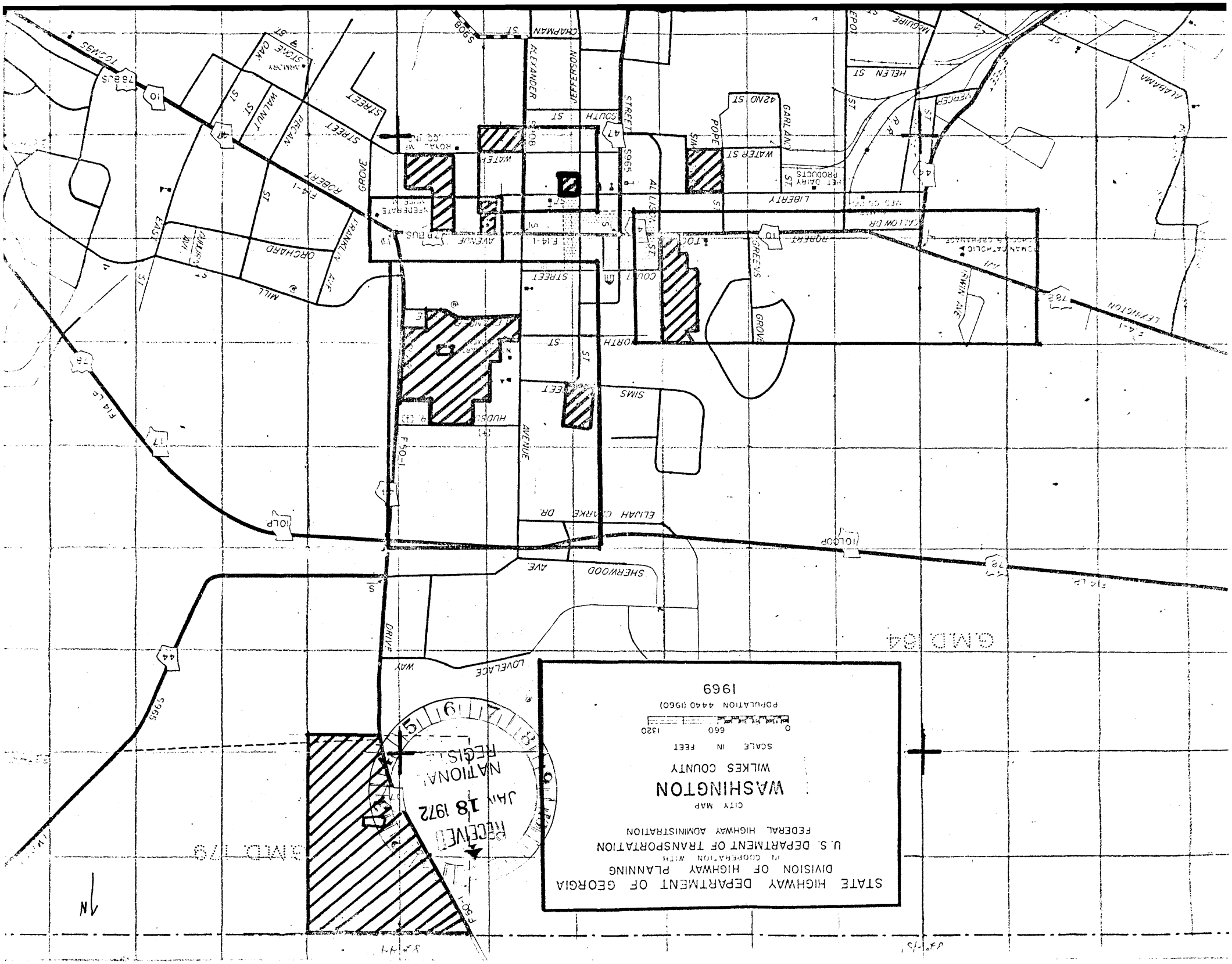
ORGANIZATION: **Department of the History of Art** DATE: **October 25, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Emory University

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

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Mary Gregory Jewett</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>January 12, 1972</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert M. Utley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>4/11/72</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>William Jewett</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>APR 1 1972</u></p>
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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
 0 660 1320

POPULATION 4440 (1960)
 1969

RECEIVED
 JAN 18 1972
 NATIONAL REGISTER

G.M.D. 84

G.M.D. 79

