

P140003018

3rd Congressional District
Jack Brinkley

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: GEORGIA	
COUNTY: Muscogee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71113.0040	DATE 11/23/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
THE CEDARS

AND/OR HISTORIC:
The Cedars

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
2039 - 13th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbus,

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Muscogee CODE: 215

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>		Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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 type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
J. Watkins Dimon

STREET AND NUMBER:
2039 - 13th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbus,

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Deed Book - Muscogee County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court House Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbus,

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/4 of an acre

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic Columbus Buildings Survey

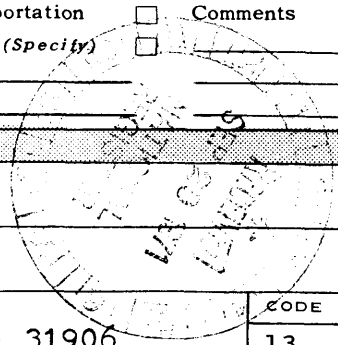
DATE OF SURVEY: 6-1-67 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Columbus Museum of Arts & Crafts, Columbus, Georgia
Building Inspector's Office, City of Columbus, Ga.
Community Development Division, City of Columbus, Ga.
Historic Columbus Foundation, Inc. - 716 Broadway

STREET AND NUMBER:
Columbus,

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

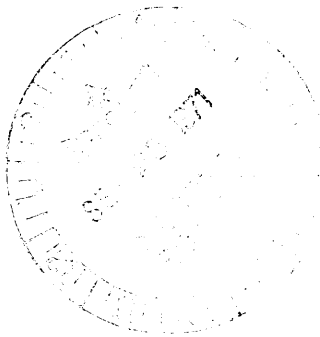
In 1837 the floor plan consisted of eight large rooms with a hall running the length of the house. The conveniences, such as kitchen, et cetra, were located in outbuildings at the rear of the house. A dirt floored basement, entered from the outside, was used for slave quarters and storage.

The main house was built of handmade deep rose colored bricks covered with stucco. This was marked off in large rectangles to resemble blocks of stone. Four Ionic columns of stuccoed brick support the front portico. The roofline was changed in 1885 from a mush flatter roof to the present one, which gives a greater feeling of height.

As one enters through the large double-front doors one comes into a hall 9' wide and 40' long. Here an artist spent several months painting the walls to resemble pinkish Italian marble. To this day, this remains in excellent condition.

To the right (East) of the hall is a parlor with black imported marble mantle and the original flowered carpeting. Behind this room is the dining room with a white Italian marble mantle. Across the hall (West side) the bedrooms were located, all with handmade pine mantles and all opening one into another. The rooms have fine recessed windows, many with the original blown-glass lights. The floors are heart-of-pine, 5 1/2 inches wide. Original imported English brass locks and hardware grace the doors. All the ceilings are 13'.

Throughout the house the doorways are beautifully carved, and this carving is even carried out onto the exterior doorways in the rear of the house which open onto a veranda. Wings on either side of the house extend beyond the main body of the house, thus forming a courtyard in the rear.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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 type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1837

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Historic</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Architecture</u>
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Col. John Banks, the original owner of "The Cedars," was an extremely prominent lawyer in Georgia in the early days of Columbus. A former Indian fighter, he visited the area in 1825 when he was ordered by Governor Troup to accompany General LaFayette on his trip from Milledgeville, the first capital of the State, to Alabama. He moved to Columbus from Elberton, Georgia in 1836.

Col. Banks was one of the founders of the Planters and Mechanics Bank of Columbus and owner, with John E. Dawson, of the Howard Cotton Mill.

Col. Banks and his wife, Sara, had a large family and, to accomodate them in comfort, he built a spacious and impressive house in the little village of "Wynnton." A long drive led from the old main road that ran through Wynnton Village to Macon, Georgia. The drive was lined with cedars, behind which was a planting of large oaks. On the West, as you faced the house, was a charming guest house which stood just inside the white picket fence surrounding the main house.

Col. Banks also had large land holdings in Alabama, and had five known working plantations there. An extremely generous man, he gave large amounts to charity. It is said that during his lifetime he gave away not less than \$50,000.00 for charitable purposes. He was also a leading figure in the founding of Wynnton Academy. (Founded in 1843, it is generally considered to be the oldest such building in continuous use as a school facility in the State of Georgia.) He provided the land (along with James M. Chambers, Van Leonard, A. H. Flewelen and Col. Wm. L. Wynn) for the school to be built upon. The group acquired four acres for the girls' school and six acres for the boys' school. Col. Banks is generally considered to be the primary prepotent of education in the embryo town of Columbus. The Wynnton area was annexed to the City in 1925 and Wynnton Academy became a part of the public school system.

Deeds Recorded:
 Wynnton Academy Property Lot sold by John Banks to Board of Trustees for Wynnton Academy for \$1,000. Since April 6, 1843; recorded April 17, 1843. Deed Book C-pg 58.

(continued...)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

State of Georgia Archives
Short Biographical Sketch of the Undersigned by Himself. John Banks
The Genealogy Record of the Banks Family of Elbert County, Ga.
 Collected by the late Elbert Augustine Banks, M. D.
 (Privately printed).
Gleanings and Character Sketches. Compiled by Georgia Butt Young. (Privately printed).
Worsley, Etta Blanchard, Columbus on the Chattahoochee, 1951.

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		32° 32' 33" N	84° 58' 18" W	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

NOUTH
CX

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. James J. W. Biggers, Jr., Executive Vice President

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Columbus Foundation, Inc.** DATE: **3-23-71**

STREET AND NUMBER:
716 Broadway

CITY OR TOWN: **Columbus,** STATE: **Georgia 31901** 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 September 13, 1971

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

Ernest A. Connelly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 NOV 23 1971

Date _____
 ATTEST:
William M. Muntz
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date NOV 23 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
GEORGIA	
COUNTY	
Muscogee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
7/11/13, 0040	11/23/91

(Number all entries)

"THE CEDARS" Statement of Significance - page 2

Because this house has remained in the Banks' family since it was built, it contains a wealth of the Banks' papers, much of the fine old silver, French Haviland China, paintings and furniture which Col. Banks and his wife chose for their home.

Columbus' Cedar Avenue was formerly the drive to this "Great House", which is one of the earliest and most important in the section of Columbus known as "Wynnton."

Deeds Recorded:

- State to Samuel Koockogy, Lot 72, May 7, 1828
- State to Samuel Koockogy, Lot 73, May 7, 1828
- State to Samuel Koockogy, Lot 77, June 11, 1828

B 456 Samuel Koockogy to John Banks, pt lots 72, 73, 77 containing 195 acres January 21, 1837. \$5,000.00.

This house has been in the Banks' family since 1837, and is presently lived in by a direct descendant of John Banks.

This house is extremely important to the community, and its style is unique in Columbus.

This house is threatened by a transportation study currently being conducted by the State of Georgia. According to the initial proposal, 13th Street (upon which "The Cedars" fronts) is to be widened to a four-lane thoroughfare. The danger of this proposal to this fine house is obvious.

According to a recently passed Columbus zoning ordinance, any house accepted by the National Register will be given a "Landmark Status" locally. This means that all alterations, improvements, partial demolitions, et cetra, will be subject to review by the local Board of Historic and Architectural Review. Acceptance of this house by the National Register would be of tremendous benefit therefore, because of the impending highway construction. This stylistically distinctive, unusually significant architectural landmark must be given all the protection we can give it.