

**United States Department of the Interior  
 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**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 Meadow Garden

and/or common George Walton House

**2. Location**

street & number 1230 Nelson Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Augusta \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 10th

state Georgia code 13 county Richmond code 245

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Georgia Society, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

street & number c/o Mrs. Leonard G. Delamar, State Regent, 1006 6th Avenue

city, town Albany \_\_\_ vicinity of state Georgia 31701

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Richmond County Court House

street & number Greene Street

city, town Augusta state Georgia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Meadow Garden is a "Sand Hills Cottage," a style which evolved in the Summerville area of Augusta known as the "Hill." It was originally a modest 2½ story cottage of frame construction built over a high brick basement. The gable roof was pierced by two front dormers and an interior central chimney. Windows were located in the gable ends. An entrance door and hall were situated on the western bay of the south facade, which had three bays. Two rooms on the first floor opened off the east of the hall, and the basement contained two more finished rooms.

Sometime after 1800, the house was enlarged and converted into a central hall type by a major three-bay extension to the west of the side hall. The gable roof of the original building was extended over the new portion, which was also equipped with an interior chimney. About 1903, a single dormer was added to the extension. The two first-floor rooms in the addition, which lacks a cellar, are about two steps lower than the two in the original structure. The second floor of the present house contains four bedrooms. A one-story porch, probably not original, extends across the front. Its Doric columns rest on square pedestals and are linked by a light balustrade. About 1903 a one-story kitchen was added to the rear northwest corner of the house.

Many interior features are intact, but the plaster walls are covered with paper. The library contains an excellent late mantel and overmantel. The building has been roofed with modern material.

The house is currently operated as a historic house museum by the Augusta Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. A caretaker's residence is located on the grounds, but does not contribute to the national significance of the landmark.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1791-1804

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Meadow Garden was the primary residence of George Walton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence from Georgia.

### History

George Walton was born in Virginia in late 1749. His father died within a few months of his birth, and his mother died before he was seven. He was reared by his uncle, also named George Walton, of Prince Edward County, Virginia. At the age of fifteen, young Walton apprenticed himself to a builder, Christopher Ford, with whom he worked for several years. At the age of nineteen, after having terminated his apprenticeship, Walton traveled to Savannah to begin a new career there.

Walton's older brother John had already come to Georgia and had established himself in Augusta. George Walton was able to obtain a position in the office of Henry Yonge, Jr., a Savannah attorney, and studied law under Yonge's tutelage. In 1773, Walton took the oath of allegiance to the king that was required before an attorney was allowed to practice law in the colony. In two years he built for himself one of the most successful legal practices in Georgia.

As friction between America and Britain grew more intense, George Walton became one of the leading activists in Georgia. He was on the colony's first Council of Safety and soon became its secretary, then president. In February 1776, Walton was appointed to the Continental Congress. Because of his position in the state militia, he was delayed in leaving Georgia, but finally arrived in Philadelphia in late June 1776, only a few days before the formal approval of the Declaration of Independence on July 4. At the age of twenty-six, Walton was the youngest man to sign the Declaration.

Walton continued to serve in the Continental Congress for another sixteen months before returning to Georgia in late 1777. Upon his return to Savannah, Walton resumed his position in the state militia and an active role in state government. In September 1778, at the age of twenty-eight, he married a fourteen or fifteen-year old Savannah girl named Dorothy Camber.

In November of that year, only two months after Walton's marriage, the British launched a new invasion of Georgia. Because Walton was the senior colonel in the state's militia, he became the acting commander of the state militia forces. When the British assault on Savannah began in late December 1778, Walton's men were located at the critical point of attack. The raw militiamen were overwhelmed by the vastly superior British forces, and Walton was severely wounded in the action. The conquering British took Walton captive as they swept through Savannah, but fortunately for Walton, he received humane and skilled care for his wound from the British surgeons. He was later sent on to Sunbury where he was held prisoner with other captured Americans.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet - Item 9 - Page 2.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2/5 acre approx.

Quadrangle name Augusta East Quad.

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

### UMT References

A 

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3	7	0	4	0	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet - Item 10 - Page 3.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Original Form Prepared by Georgia Department of Natural Resources

organization Revised by Cecil McKithn date NPS Regional Coordinator

street & number 75 Spring Street telephone 221-2651

city or town Atlanta, state Georgia,

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
Keeper of the National Register	date
Attest	date
Chief of Registration	

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

When Walton was finally exchanged in October 1779, Savannah, which had been the seat of the state government, was still in the hands of the British. Walton traveled to Augusta where he joined a small group of whigs who were trying to reorganize a state government in order to continue to resist the British. The new assembly elected Walton governor and then later reappointed him to the Continental Congress.

When the British were finally driven from Georgia in 1782, Walton returned to Savannah to try to rebuild his personal financial position, which had been deeply eroded by the demands and the destruction of the War. The economy of Georgia and of all American states continued to be severely depressed during the 1780s, and Walton, even though he was elected Chief Justice of Georgia by the General Assembly, was not able to reestablish a secure financial footing in Savannah. By the mid-1780s, he began gradually to divest himself of his property there and to prepare to relocate his family in Richmond County. Augusta was then the capitol of the state, and Walton moved to a farm to the south of town at "New Savannah." Walton was elected Governor again in 1789.

In June 1791, Walton acquired two adjacent lots of approximately fifty acres each in Augusta township, and it appears that he was living on the property by early 1792. By 1793, he was identifying himself by the name of his new home, "George Walton of Meadow Garden." Because his financial troubles never fully abated and because he needed to insure that his family would not be deprived of their home, Walton never listed the property in his own name. Instead he had it listed first in the name of his nephew, Thomas Watkins, and then later held in trust by John Habersham and Anderson Watkins for his son George Walton.

Despite the fact that the property was never formally listed in his own name, there is no doubt that "Meadow Garden" was the home of George Walton. His letters throughout the 1790s and until his death in 1804 are continually headed "Meadow Garden." When Walton was appointed to the United States Senate in 1795-6 he wrote back home to his wife with advice to her about how to manage Meadow Garden. When he died, his funeral procession began at Meadow Garden.

The Augusta Chronicle carried a full account of the death and of the funeral. Walton's body was carried from Meadow Garden to a family cemetery on the plantation of one of his nephews. His body was later disinterred and taken to be buried at the Signers' Monument in Augusta.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 2

Benton, Martha Brown, Sketch of Meadow Garden, Home of George Walton, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1922, revised 1940.

Cordle, Charles G., Meadow Garden at Augusta, A Report to the Georgia State, N.S.D.A., April 1962 (Citea Richmond Co. Realty Records, Augusta Chronicle, Colonial Records of Georgia, C.C. Jones' Memorial History of Augusta, et al.)

Biographical Dictionary of the American Congress, 1774-1961, G.P.O., Washington, 1961, p.177

Nichols, F.D., Early Architecture of Georgia, U.N.C. Press, Chapel Hill, N.C.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 3

Lots 30, 31 and 32 in the City of Augusta, beginning at a point on Nelson Street 400' from the intersection 13th Street and Nelson Street, at the corner of Lot 30 and running 120' to the NW corner of Lot 32; thence running 147' with the western line of Lot 32 to a street along the Augusta Canal at the SW corner of Lot 32; thence 120' along said street and Canal to the SE corner of Lot 30; thence 147' with the eastern line of Lot 30 to the point of beginning, containing approximately 2/5 acre.