UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

(2) Atlanta

Georgia

IONAL REGI	STER OF HISTOR	IC PLACES	RECEIVED NOV 2 0 1978	
NVENTORY	NOMINATION	FORM	DATE ENTERED JAN 8	3 1979
SEEI			TIONAL REGISTER FORM	S
NAME	TYPE ALL ENTRIES	COMPLETE APPLI	CABLE SECTIONS	
Rober	t E. Dismukes, Sr.,	louse		
AND/OR COMMON Dismu	ikes-Jarrell House		,	
LOCATION				
STREET & NUMBER				
1617	Summit Drive		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DIST	RICT
Co1um	ibus	VICINITY OF	Third - Rep. Jac	
STATE Georg	r i a	CODE 13	COUNTY Muscogee	CODE 215
CLASSIFIC			Muscogee	
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	SENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X_PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	MOSEOW PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRES		X_PRIVATE RESIDEN
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X.YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTE		TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
OWNER OF	PROPERTY			
Dr. &	Mrs. Harold G. Jarrel	1		·
STREET & NUMBER		· 		
1617 S	ummit Drive			
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
Columb		VICINITY OF	Georgia	31906
LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	RIPTION		
COURTHOUSE,	====			
REGISTRY OF DEEDS,	Consolidated Gove	rnment Center (Deed Books)	
STREET & NUMBER	Tenth Avenue			
CITY, TOWN	TENCH AVERUE		STATE	
Columbus		Georgia 31901		
REPRESEN	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEY		
			. •	
	toric Columbus Buildi			
(2) Co1	umbus-Muscogee County	Historic Build	ings Survey	
DATE (1) 196		EEDED	N Y STATE COUNTY V	
(2) 197	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		AL X_STATECOUNTY _XLOCAL	L
	(1) Historic Columbus			
	(2) State of Georgia,	Department of	Natural Resources STATE	
CITT, TOWN	(1) Columbus	,	SIAIE	

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

XEXCELLENT __GOOD

__FAIR

__DETERIORATED

_UNEXPOSED

__UNALTERED

X_ORIGINAL SITE
__MOVED DATE_____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The appearance, present and original, of this suburban "Peacock Woods" estate has remained essentially constant since early 1926 when it was completed according to the design of the Atlanta architectural firm, Hentz, Reid, and Adler. With only minor exceptions, the entire picturesque composition, inside and out, appears as orchestrated by the late Neel Reid (1885-1926). Reid was responsible for every aspect of design, including interior decoration and landscaping (gardens and garden outbuildings). Perfectly sited on a knoll back from the street on a rolling lawn, it is the complete picture of an early-twentieth-century suburban villa in a planned garden suburb (1922), a neighborhood of curving streets, large wooded lots, and each of the houses designed according to a traditional and eclectic version of various historical styles or periods.

The house is two-story brick with a hip roof and flanking one-story wings. It is five bays wide in the central block with six-over-six lights. The windows of the wings are set in arched and recessed white panels. Two massive brick chimneys are set in the slope of the hip roof on either side. The slope of the roof ends within the bounds of the house, leaving a flat roof area on each side of the hipped portion.

James Grady, in his <u>Architecture of Neel Reid in Georgia</u> (1973), says: "The house was designed as a Federal building with Greek Revival details. Grady's brief description continues:

The front entrance and the garden portico have Greek Doric orders contrasted with the red brick facades. Reid may have designed the garden, but in any case the two structures that are its principal features are by him. The larger, in red brick with a pedimented, columned portico, is the servants' quarters. The small temple that forms the gazebo is charming with Tuscan columns and treillage.

Interiors are carefully detailed in Reid's personal manner. Bedroom fireplaces become interesting chimney pieces by the replacement of their simple, stock mantels in arched recesses.

Architectural attribution is no problem as this fifty-two-year-old estate is pictured and discussed on pages 142-45 of Grady's Architecture of Neel Reid in Georgia. It is listed as Reid's and his firm's, "job number 513, 1923-1924," and the whereabouts of the original tracings is given. In addition, the current owners, who maintain the property beautifully, have a set of plans in blue-print form which may be studied. Except for small variations in actual execution, the entire conception appears today as drawn with only one "alteration": The original south and north arched, open-porch pavillions have been enclosed but so carefully that the original architectural scheme of a two-story manor house block, balanced by one-story porch wings, is carefully preserved.

SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1923 - 1926	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT Hentz, Reid & A W.C. Whitaker,	dler, Architects Builder
X_1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY INVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X_OTHER(SPECIFY) Local History
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	X COMMUNITY PLANNING	XLANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
PERIOD	AH	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CF	TECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dismukes-Jarrell House is significant as the last and one of the finest examples of the designs of architect Neel Reid, who was responsible for the outstanding landscape design as well. It is also an example of the house built in the 1920s in the area of Columbus called Peacock Woods. Historically, it is significant as the house of R.E. Dismukes, one of the leaders of Columbus from 1900 until his death in 1943.

In September of 1923, the Atlanta architectural firm of Hentz, Reid & Adler presented to Robert Ernest Dismukes, Sr., detailed plans for a new house Mr. Dismukes intended to build on a large lot he owned in a new garden subdivision called "Peacock Woods." Dismukes chose the firm for three reasons. First, his father, E. Paul Dismukes, had retained the firm in 1915 to design a house for him — now destroyed — on Second Avenue, also in Columbus. Secondly, Hal Hentz of the firm was related to Mrs. Dismukes, whose maiden name was Lenora Epping Swift. And, thirdly, the firm was well-known in Georgia for the excellence and thoroughness of their architecture, especially their domestic work, and especially because of the brilliance of the firm's principal designer, Neel Reid (1885-1926). Reid took a personal interest in each house, designing every aspect inside and out, including gardens and certain features of the interior decor; he designed and orchestrated complete settings.

According to Edward Shorter, Director Emeritus of the Columbus Museum of Arts and Sciences, who knew both the client and the architect well, Dismukes spent about \$100,000 to create the estate and intended for it to be "as fine as anything built before the Civil War." Shorter watched the house as it was constructed — "to last forever" — and was there in early 1926 when, a few months before Reid's death, the architect came to Columbus by train and to the house by ambulance, where he was carried by stretcher on the final inspection tour of his creation. Shorter recalls that Reid ordered furniture, paintings and other decorative features from England, designing special places for those to go in the three major downstairs rooms. Shorter says that Reid and Dismukes had in mind an "English manor house," and that Reid designed all of the garden buildings, the garden wall, and laid out every aspect of the estate from the front curb to the backyard. (The plans are quite detailed and show Reid's design for a built-in eighteenth-century-type knee-hole desk in the library, which is still in place.) James Grady includes the place in his

[continued]

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRA	APHICAL REFEREN	NCES	
Grady, James. The Arch	itecture of Neel Reid	in Georgia. Athens: Un	iversity of Georgia
Press, 1973.	Jr. Personal inspections of the state of the	on, interviews and rese	
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G VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRI	IPTION	ншШ	
1617 Summit Drive; 282	feet on Summit; 231.6	feet from Summit west	to the back line,
LIST ALL STATES AND	COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES O	ck to Summit. [continu	red] Y BOUNDARIES
STATE		OUNTY	CODE
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Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET

Description

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A knowledge of comparative appearance, and original design attribution, may also be easily derived from an expert contemporary eye-witness account recently given by Edward Shorter, Director Emeritus of the Columbus Museum of Arts and Sciences. From Shorter's testimony, it is possible to say that an ailing Neel Reid came to Columbus to make an inspection early in 1926, a few months before his death. Shorter, who knew Reid and Robert Ernest Dismukes well, was present as the young architect made his final inspection, taking notes, as he was carried through the house on a stretcher. Before the year was over, Reid had died, but not before the house was finished to his specifications by an expert local builder, W.C. Whitaker.

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Architecture of Neel Reid in Georgia, gives the location of the original tracings and discusses the significance of Reid's architecture. (Grady does not attempt to tell the role of each member of the firm, but he does say:

In the early 1920s when Philip Shutze returned to Hentz, Reid and Adler ... a significant new spirit can be noticed in the firm's work.

By September of 1923, when the plans for this house are dated, Shutze was working for the firm and could have assisted Reid in some aspects of design.)

This "Peacock Woods" estate is one of Reid's last designs; indeed, it may be the final effort in which he was able personally to oversee minute details and give that complete architectural service for which Hentz, Reid and Adler were known. Grady rightly points out that such houses were "suburban villas" or "Quasi-country houses," in which the surrounding gardens and landscape were designed to complement the main house and vice versa, and in which the architect took charge of every aspect of the composition to create a picturesque "period" setting, complete in every detail. The Dismukes-Jarrell House continues to meet the criteria of the early-twentieth-century period house and to set a high standard of formal and traditional domestic architecture going back to the country villas of the Italian Renaissance, perhaps the ultimate design source for such estates.

Park-like Peacock Woods was named for a local family. Begun in 1922, it was planned and developed by Flournoy Realty Company, a Columbus firm begun in 1887 by John F. Flournoy. Its rolling, tree-shaded, curving streets and large lots have created one of the most desirable residential neighborhoods—a garden suburb—in Columbus and especially the area immediately surrounding this house. Robert Ernest Dismukes, Sr. (1877-1943), who commissioned the house was a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School. In 1906, he married Lenora Epping Swift, whose father, George P. Swift, Jr., built the house directly across from this, at the same time.

The Dismukes-Jarrell House is singled out from its neighbors in Peacock Woods, a fine example of suburban planning, because of the beauty of its Neel Reid architecture; it exemplifies the aesthetic ideals of "creative eclecticism." (The present owners, Dr. and Mrs. Harold G. Jarrell, appreciate its beauty and maintain the estate in a style which befits its growing

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significance as a historical and cultural artifact.

Robert Ernest Dismukes served on the Columbus City Council for sixteen years and then on the City Commission for sixteen years, retiring in 1937. He practiced law in Columbus for many years, and he and his son, R.E. Dismukes, Jr., owned R.E. Dismukes Insurance Company. He was vice president of the Georgia Manufacturing Company, of which his father was the first president, and a director of the Columbus Manufacturing Company. Also, he served as chairman of the Muscogee County Democratic Executive Committee.

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Bibliography & CONTINUATION SHEET Verbal Boundary ITEM NUMBER 9 & 10 PAGE 2

9. <u>Major Bibliographical</u> References

(Swift owns the George Swift House, designed by T. Firth Lockwood, 1925, directly across from the Dismukes-Jarrell House, and provided the Peacock Woods plat.)

Worsley, Etta Blanchard. <u>Columbus</u> on the <u>Chattahoochee</u>. Columbus, Ga.: Columbus Office Supply Company, 1951.

10. Geographical Data - Verbal Boundary Description

(Lots 10, 11, and 12 of the original Peacock Woods layout, as shown on Muscogee County Tax Map 185, Sheet 6-K, Block B, Parcel 20, Revised April, 1978.) [See attached.]

