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Description by Ward Dennis, A.I.A.

Built in 1840 dl, this single-story Greek Revival mansion was originally one of the great houses of the period in the Deep South. Loss of the notable south facade when land was subdivided is most regrettable but does not indicate that what remains should not be preserved. Only the west portico is now out of charcater with the period.

Like its neighbor, the Napier-Small house, the Munroe-Goolsby mansion originally faced Vineville Avenue and was approached through a stately 200 yard avenue of cedars. Unlike the Napier-Small house, however, it is built of brick and stucco and could not be moved and turned when Rogers Avenue was opened. It still rests on its original foundations.

The original south portico was really a loggia with Greek Doric Order recessed between pavilioned extensions of the corner rooms. The Handsome entablature is enriched with Greek fret applied to the frieze, continuous around the house. The same motif is repeated in the cornice of the square cupola centered on hipped roof over the ample hallways to promote up-draft summer ventilation.

Enframement of the double-hung windows consists of a fluted casing with back band and corner blocks at the head. This is similar to the interior trim except that on the interior the corner blocks have rich ornamentation. This type interior trim was in wide usage and is one of the hallmarks marking Greek Revival kinship to the Late Georgian work⁻⁻ in England; but usage on exterior is rare.

It is believed that the Greek Doric columns of the west portico are from the original south portico but the porch entablature is Victorian and out of character. It is believed also that the shingles with notched shadowline which now enclose the cupola were installed when the Victorian porch was built. The medium high foundation wall originally had wellproportioned arched under main floor windows. These are now filled solid with brickand stucco.

The north and east facades are original, and the doorway to north terrace corresponds to the original entrance doorway of the south loggia.

Comment by William R. Mitchell, Jr., Georgia Historical Commission

"Obviously in its heyday this was one of America's really great Greek Revival Style mansions. I've never seen anything quite like it in Georgia. It reminds me of a house in New York State (Hyde Hall, Cooperstown) and in Ohio (Swift House, Vermilion) but it is really in a class by itself." EE INSTRUCTION S

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

This house was built in 1841, only eighteen years after Macon was established on the west side of the Ocmulgee River. It was one of the fine estate manors built well back from the read which later became Vineville Avenue, leading north toward Monroe County. It faced the road and was approached through a long avenue of Cedars.

During the years, however, the house has been remodeled several times and now faces Regers Avenue although the house itself has not been moved. The unique Greek-Key motif under the eaves has not been changed.

/The builder, Nathan C. Munroe, banker, was a director of the Macon & Western Railroad, served as president, treasurer, and trustee of the Georgia Academy for the Blind from its founding, and served as Senior Warden of Christ Church Parish for more than twenty-five years. From Nathan Manroe's bound newspaper files, John C. Batler wrote his "History of Macon and Central Georgia."

Munroe's daughter, Blanché, married Captain John McIntosh Kell in Christ Church in 1856. Captain Kell was, in 1853, master of Commodore Perry's flagship when Perry opened trade with Japan. During the War Between the States Captain Kell was Executive Officer of the Confederate Cruiser "Alabama." The Kell family made their home here.

At Manroe's death, the property was inherited by his son and three daughters who sold the house and nine acres to Charles H. Rogers in 1869. An entrance was made by Rogers on the side of the house to face the new street called Rogers Avenue.

The deed to the house has passed through many hands since Rogers' death in 1892, and it is now owned by Dr. and Mrs. Cullen Goolsby who maintain it in the finest manner possible.

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