

4-25-73

P40023400

10th Congressional District
Robert G. Stephens

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: Newton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JAN 29 1973	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Orna Villa

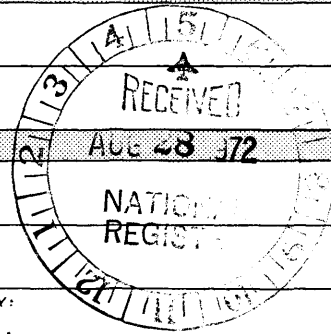
AND/OR HISTORIC:
The Alexander Means House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1008 North Emory Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Oxford

STATE: **Georgia** CODE: **13** COUNTY: **Newton** CODE: **217**



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input 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
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
James Wimberly Watterson

STREET AND NUMBER:
1008 North Emory Street

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Newton County Courthouse, Deed Book

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
State of Georgia, Historical Marker

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Georgia Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
116 Mitchell Street, SW

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Georgia
COUNTY: Newton
ENTRY NUMBER: JAN 29 1973
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

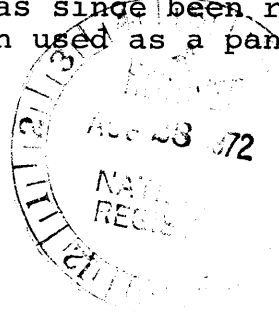
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Orna Villa was built as a single story house and altered to a two-story plantation plain style house with Greek details during the first half of the 19th century. The addition of two one-story wings, a rear ell and the removal of a five-room wing have been made.

Orna Villa is presently a two-story, weatherboarded house with a two-story portico, two one-story wings on each side and a back ell. Three end, limestone stuccoed chimneys rise at each gable to a low pitched roof. The two-story, five bay front facade has nine-over-nine light windows; only the one window above the doorway has side lights. This main entrance below is a trabeated doorway with framing pilasters and side and transom lights. These pilasters and those defining the corners of the front facade are identical in style to the four square Doric portico columns.

On the first floor there are two main rooms, one smaller than the other with a wide hall, off set to the main entrance. The larger room, approximately 20'x19' has pedimented framing over the doors and windows. The smaller room, 15'x14' has a paneled wainscot and Adam style mantelpiece. The ell to the rear of the house a later addition, houses the kitchen and other minor rooms. The second floor contains two main rooms and a large hall to the ell. The one-story wings were added much later. A 1920 photograph shows the right wing as a porch and a five room addition to the left rear side of the house that has since been removed. It is said that these five rooms had been used as a pantry and student dining area.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

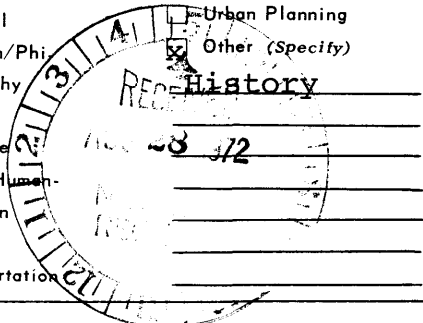
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <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) C. 1820

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 | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | History |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | 1820 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Near the old Emory College Campus in Oxford, Georgia, is "Orna Villa," a Greek Revival style dwelling built in stages from the 1820's to the 1850's. It is well-known in Georgia as the home of Dr. Alexander Means (b. 1801-1883). The house and its long-time owner played important parts in the early history of this town and college which were founded by Georgia Methodists.

Emory College dates from 1836 when it was founded as an expansion of Georgia Methodists' educational program. Orna Villa said to be the oldest house in Oxford, was used as a "house dormitory" as were other homes in the area. A community developed around Emory College, was named Oxford, and was incorporated three years later in 1839. Thus it is understandable that Oxford, steeped in Methodism with its streets named for venerable Methodists has been declared the 17th National United Methodist Historic Shrine. It is in this historic town-district that Orna Villa survives today as an integral part.

Orna Villa is an interesting example of a Greek Revival structure, built and renovated in several stages. It began as a one-story plantation residence that had been built before 1820 by a Virginian, Richard K. Dearing. Dr. Alexander Means who had walked to Georgia from North Carolina in 1816, acquired this house about 1821-2. It is known that Dr. Means renovated the one-story Dearing house to a two-story, Greek Revival style structure sometime during his ownership, but the actual dates and number of these renovations of Orna Villa are uncertain. The design and cornice detail suggest that the plantation plain, two-story body of the house, without Greek details, probably was the first stage of renovation. In the early 20th century when five rooms off the rear of the left wing were removed so that the materials could be used in repair of the main house damaged by a minor fire, it was found that this five room wing had been cut with a circular saw, as opposed to earlier methods used in other parts of the house.

This use of the circular saw in part of the house and the similarity to the c. 1850 Emory College buildings, directs attention to another major renovation when the Greek portico and details were added. In the 1850's several Emory College buildings (continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atlanta Journal, article by Bishop Warren A. Candler, Dec. 1935.
 Atlanta Journal Sunday Magazine, Dec. 30, 1945.
 Atlanta Journal, July 25, 1971.
 Atlanta Times, June 13, 1965, section 1-D.
 Georgia and Georgians, Lewis Publishing Co., 1917.
 Men of Mark in Georgia
 Minutes of North Georgia Annual Conference 1970, United Methodist Church.
 Watterson, James Wimberly. Presented first draft of National Register nomination form; on file at the Georgia Historical Commission.
 White Columns in Georgia, Perkerson, 1952.

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 ' "		33° 37' 25"	83° 52' 02"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

UTM
17/234000
3723900

CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1.8 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
William R. Mitchell, Jr., Director, Georgia Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION: **Georgia Historical Commission** DATE: **August 7, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
116 Mitchell Street, SW

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 G. Jewett</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>August 21, 1972</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert Utley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>1/29/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>Lowell Brewster</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>1.26.73</u></p>
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

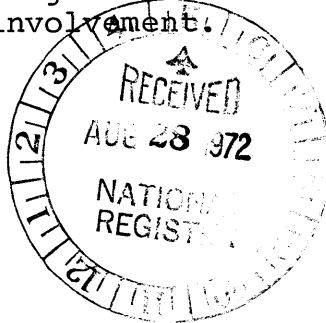
STATE Georgia	
COUNTY Newton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 29 1972

(Number all entries)

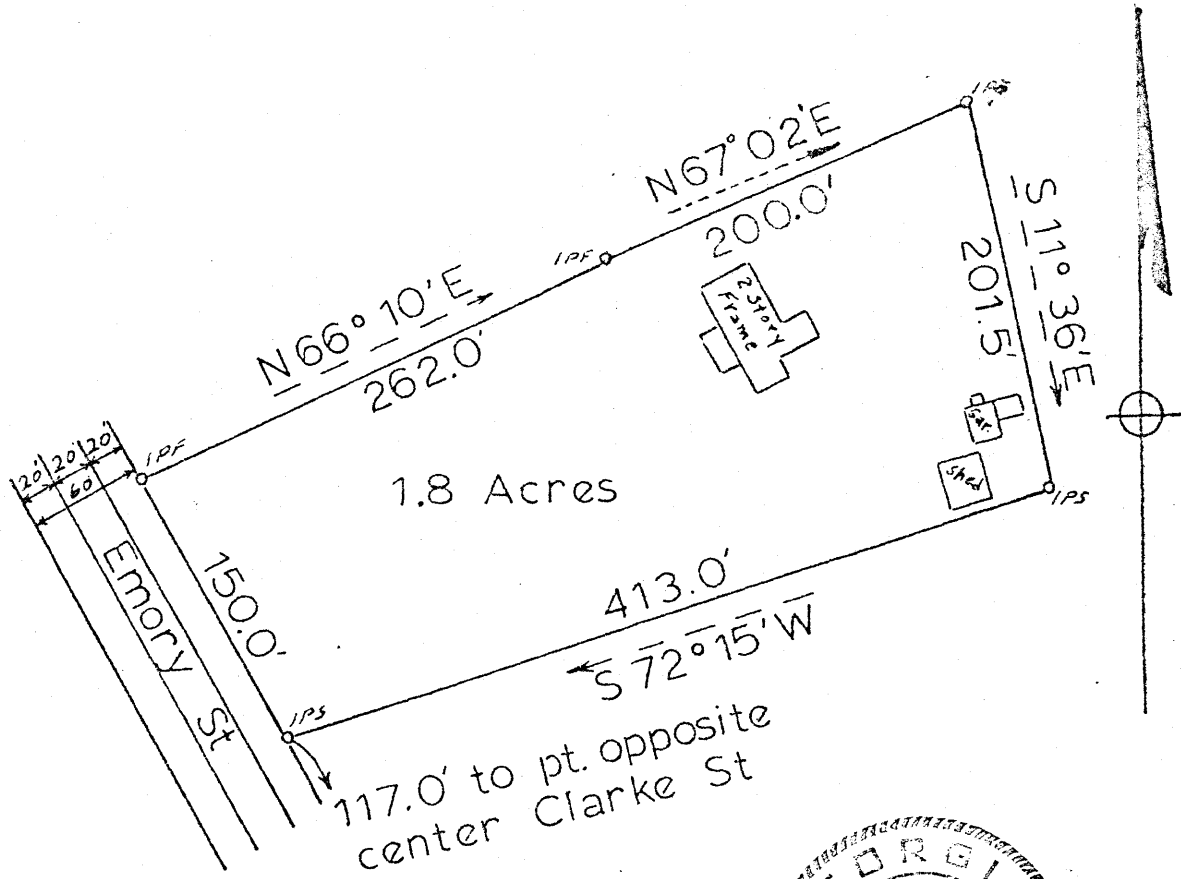
8. Significance (Orna Villa)

were built in similar style and detail to Orna Villa. Few Hall, built in 1851, with its Greek portico, has the same door treatment (minus the over and side lights) that Orna Villa has. Also the fact that Dr. Means, as founder of Emory in 1836 and its president in 1854-5, had such direct association with Emory College adds credence to the hypothesis that Orna Villa was renovated again at this time.

To what extent Dr. Means had to do with the designing of Orna Villa or the Emory College buildings is unknown. Means was a Methodist minister, physician, professor of natural and physical sciences, founder and president of Emory College and demonstrated the first (1857) incandescent electric light ever exhibited in America. (Means, interested in zoology, named his house Orna Villa because of the variety of birds found there.) The fact that he was abreast of the latest developments in so many fields leads one to wonder what architectural books he owned, or what involvement he might have had in the design of Emory College buildings and Orna Villa. Further documented evidence is needed in order to ascertain the specific building dates for Orna Villa as well as the extent of Means' design involvement.



Revised 9/8/50

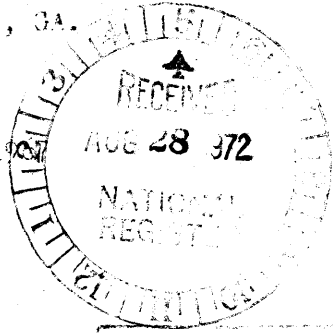


SURVEY FOR: J. W. WATTERSON

9th. DIST.; NEWTON CO., GA.

TOWN OF OXFORD

1" = 100' NOV. 17, 1927



In my opinion, this plat is a correct representation of the land platted and has been prepared in conformity with the minimum standards and requirements of law.

George W. O'Neill
 GEORGE W. O'NEILL, R.L.S. GA. #1142
 Member Ga. Assn. Reg. Land Surveyors

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Georgia	
COUNTY Newton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 29 1973

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:	Orna Villa		
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Alexander Means House		
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:	1008 North Emory Street		
CITY OR TOWN:	Oxford		
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Georgia	13	Newton	217
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:	George W. O'Neill, Registered Land Surveyor		
SCALE:	1" = 100'		
DATE:	Nov. 17, 1967		
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

