

**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 Ridgewood

and/or common Ridgewood

**2. Location**

street & number Jenkins Road (north of Macon Road) not for publication

city, town Upatoi Columbus  
X vicinity of congressional district 3rd—Jack Brinkley

state Georgia code 013 county Muscogee code 215

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. and Mrs. Dennis C. Thompson

street & number Ridgewood, Route 1, Box 168

city, town Upatoi X vicinity of Columbus state Georgia 31829

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Consolidated Government Center

street & number Tenth Avenue

city, town Columbus state Georgia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Historic Structures Field Survey:  
title Muscogee County, Georgia has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Ga. Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

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## 7. Description

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<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		

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

Ridgewood, a two-story, antebellum, frame plantation house built on a raised basement, sits on the crest of a wooded knoll about one-quarter mile off Macon Road. It overlooks acres of farmland which were originally a part of its vast expanse. Today, only seventeen acres remain to the property, while the rest has either been subdivided or allowed to go back to forestland. The house is Greek Revival in style with decorative ironwork and a cupola.

The main facade of the house is five bays wide with a central, paired-column portico over the central bay, which is the front entrance. The portico boasts a handsome entablature with ironwork on top. Leading up to this portico on either side are curved stairs which were added in 1940. These reportedly replaced stairs which came straight down from the front door. Below the portico and flanked by the stairs is an entrance into the raised basement. This has a central arched doorway flanked by two recessed rectangular panels, which visually balance the whole of the porch arrangement.

The second floor of the front facade has five sash windows evenly spaced across the main facade. Side elevations contain four window bays. All windows in the house are six-over-six in configuration and framed by simple surrounds. An entablature above the second-story windows on all four facades of the house give the house its strong Greek Revival appearance. A cupola with windows on all four sides and ironwork around the base sits atop the hipped roof. The entire house is uniformly sheathed in weatherboards painted white.

The floor plan of the house is that of four rooms up and four rooms down, with a central stair hall on both floors. The raised basement, although altered, originally held the family diningroom. Some minor alterations were made in 1940 by Robert W. Smith, a descendant of the original owner. These alterations included the addition of bathroom and kitchen facilities and were done with no major ill effects to the house. Ridgewood still contains its semi-curved, walnut staircase and simple Greek Revival woodwork. It, unfortunately, no longer contains its sterling-silver hardware, which was removed when one of its owners sold the property.

Ridgewood has several outbuildings, but the majority of them are modern. One of the original frame barns remains, as well as a small, nondescript, brick smokehouse. A smaller house, which is sympathetic to the main house, is located very close to the house, while a barbecue pit and storage shed sit at the rear of the house.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1830-34 Builder/Architect Unknown

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Ridgewood is significant in architecture, agricultural history, and historic archeology.

### Architectural Significance

Ridgewood is significant in the architectural history of Georgia because it is a fine example of the large but modestly detailed early-nineteenth-century Greek Revival plantation house. Its compact, regular massing, its symmetrical arrangement of windows and doors, and its four-over-four-with-central-stair-hall plan are major characteristics of its style. Minor features include weatherboard siding over heavy timber frame, simple corner boards, broad cornices with wide friezes, simple window sills and lintels, and interior finishes and details. The front doorway is appropriately trabeated and includes side and transom lights and colonnettes; the portico is sympathetically scaled and detailed. The raised basement is unusual in a region where most historic country houses rest on piers.

Ridgewood is situated on a rise of ground commanding a view of the surrounding countryside. Although its surroundings have been drastically changed by recent subdivision development, its immediate setting still reflects the choice of high, dry ground as the location of the main house on a plantation of hundreds of acres. Some traces of historic landscaping survive, principally several large trees. A few outbuildings, including a barn and wellhouse, contribute to the historic character of the grounds.

Historically, in Georgia, the Ridgewood type of house complements both the glamorous colonnaded Greek Revival mansions and the simple two-over-two plantation plain houses. Like those houses, it represents the east-to-west diffusion pattern of architectural styles and types across central Georgia in the first half of the nineteenth century. It has survived largely intact, and is the only example of its kind in the area.

### Agricultural History

Ridgewood is significant in the agricultural history of Georgia, due to the importance of the original owner/builder, James Hardwick Jones (1778-1862) as a cotton planter in the local area. Jones moved with his slaves and his already well-tried knowledge of cotton-planting to this area which was Georgia's last

[continued]

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Woodall, W.C. "Beautiful Historic Ridgewood" The Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, Sept. 28, 1970.  
 Mitchell, William R., Jr. Draft nomination, undated.  
 Alexander, Nancy. Personal inspection, August, 1979.  
 Worsley, Etta Blanchard, Columbus on the Chattahoochee, Columbus, 1951.

# 10. Geographical Data **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property 17.2 acres **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**  
 Quadrangle name Upatoi, Ga. Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A	1 6	7 1 1 9 1 0	3 6 0 4 2 5 0	B	1 6	7 1 2 3 3 0	3 6 0 4 0 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 6	7 1 2 1 8 0	3 6 0 3 8 8 0	D			
E				F			
G				H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

As marked by a heavy black line on the attached Columbus, Georgia, Tax Map #146, Block One, Parcel 1. The nominated property includes all the current owner owns which is all that remains intact with the house being surrounded by roads.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., historian; Richard Cloues, architectural historian  
 organization Historic Preservation Section  
Ga. Dept. of Natural Resources date January 11, 1980  
 street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W. telephone (404) 656-2840  
 city or town Atlanta state Georgia 30334

# 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 Elizabeth A. Lyon  
 Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Acting State Historic Preservation Officer date 2/4/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>W. Ray Luce</u>	date <u>4/2/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>W. A. Dinkie</u>	date <u>3/15/80</u>
Chief of Registration	

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Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

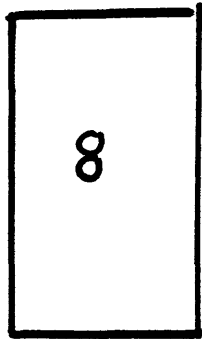
westernmost Indian frontier until opened for white settlement by the Land Lottery of 1827. Jones, a South Carolina native, came ca. 1830-34 from Hancock County, Georgia (an area settled since the 1780s) with other prominent families to this area when he was over fifty years old. Many frontier planters first built crude, log structures and worked for decades to accumulate the wealth and social prestige necessary to build a large, imposing mansion. Jones, and many of the others, due to the resources of money and slaves, were able to build such fine homes immediately after arrival. This house, built ca. 1830-34, is similar to many in Hancock County and is a reflection of the homes left behind.

In 1860, after three decades of farming at this location, the censuses reflect Jones' operation, consisting of approximately 3,000 acres, 1,500 of which were under cultivation producing ninety-one bales of ginned cotton with the use of seventy-eight slaves. This level of production made him one of the most important planters in the county, as only seven planters had 1,000 acres or more under cultivation, and only ten had over seventy slaves. At his death two years later, Jones divided his land and slaves among his heirs, thus effectively ending the plantation's peak operation level, something the Civil War would have accomplished anyway, had it survived intact.

Many plantations and smaller farms were absorbed into the Fort Benning Military Reservation after its creation in 1918 and the homes demolished. This base now includes a large part of Muscogee and Chattahoochee counties. Ridgewood is important locally as one of the few plantation homes remaining in a setting close to its original one, out from the city and not absorbed by the base. Others in the city were long ago absorbed into suburban neighborhoods. In recent years, Ridgewood has had a similar fate. Its distance from the city allowed it to retain more of its original setting, since there was no need for extremely small lots.

After the death of Mrs. Jones, the house changed hands many times. The present owners purchased it in 1970.

There is a historic archaeological potential at Ridgewood due to the fact that it was a large, antebellum plantation with a necessary number of out-buildings, although the exact number or location is unknown. Many of these would have been, by necessity, near the main house and within the nominated property. The potential thus exists for the identification of archaeological resources at some time in the future. Such an effort would help historians and archaeologists better understand the workings of a plantation of this size.

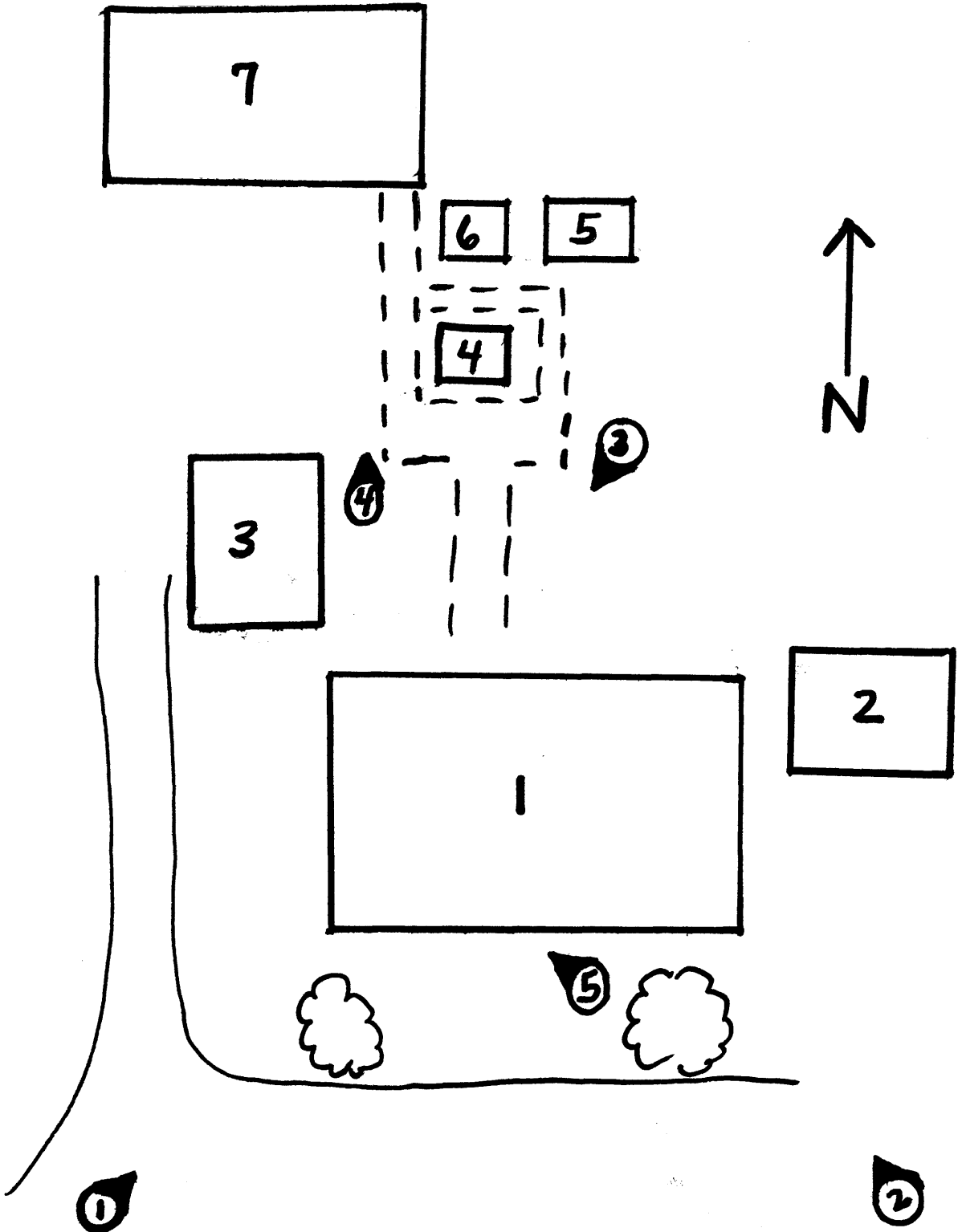


SKETCH MAP FEB 13 1980

Ridgewood  
near Columbus, Muscogee Co., Georgia

Scale: not to scale

- Key:
- 1. Main House
  - 2. Guest House
  - 3. Garage
  - 4. Bar-B-Que
  - 5. Well House
  - 6. Storage Building
  - 7, 8. Barns



**FEB 13 1980**  
**RIDGEWOOD**  
Near Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia  
Scale: Unknown  
Source: Tax Map and Zoning Atlas, Columbus,  
Georgia, Maps 145 and 146  
Date: 1978-79  
Key: The nominated property is delineated  
by a heavy black line.

