

PH0013307

10th Congressional District  
Robert G. Stephens, Jr.

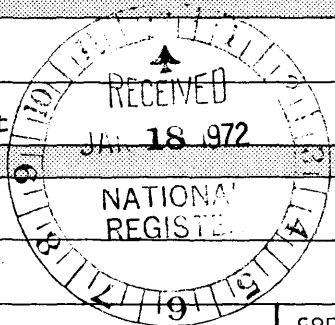
Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

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: Wilkes	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 11 1972	



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
The Cedars

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
The Cedar Retreat

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
210 Sims Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE: Georgia

CODE 13	COUNTY: Wilkes	CODE 317
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mrs. M.S. DeVaughn & Mrs. W. R. Latimer / Mrs. L. N. Greene

STREET AND NUMBER:  
201 Sims Street / 1029 E. Third Street  
Ocala, Florida

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: Georgia

CODE: 13

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Office of Clerk of Superior Court, Wilkes County

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Court Street

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: Georgia

CODE: 13

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Washington Comprehensive Plan, Historic Area Study

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Georgia Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
116 Mitchell Street

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta

STATE: Georgia

CODE: 13

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Georgia

COUNTY: Wilkes

ENTRY NUMBER: APR 11 1972

DATE: APR 11 1972

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)  
 Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)  
 Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)  
 Moved     Original Site

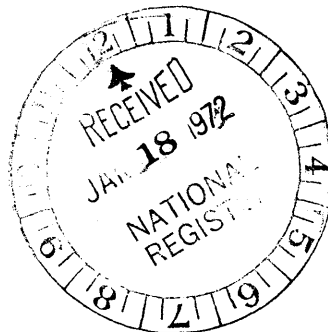
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cedars is a rambling, eighteen-room structure which stands on a high hill in the northern section of Washington. Behind a large, two-story front section are attached an early nineteenth-century building and a remnant of a late nineteenth-century house. The oldest portion of the Cedars is the kitchen, all that remains of the original house built on the site in c. 1793 by Anthony Poullain. This room, clearly visible on the exterior as a separate structure, is attached at the northwest corner of the back of the complex. It has been turned ninety degrees from its original position, placing the chimney on the western side. Handblown panes of glass in the windows attest to its age. Timbers from the rest of the original house can be found in the construction of outbuildings which remain on the property.

The second stage in the development of the house is the six-room, one-story addition, c. 1805, that makes up the back and central portions of the present building. It apparently began as a four-room central hall plan with shed rooms attached. Rectangular transom lights over the doors at either end of this hall and raised door sills suggest these were both exterior doors. The south end of this hall now leads into the front and final two-story addition of c. 1885 by Marshall Sims. It is this eleven-room front section with its profusion of cut-work details elaborating its picturesque form that gives the house its High Victorian identity. Rooms leading off in several directions from an L-shaped hall produce an asymmetrical plan that stretches longitudinally across one end in front of the older sections. The stem-end of the L extends horizontally across the width at the back of the front section. A tower extends above the multiple gable roofs on one side of a low veranda which is wrapped around the front and eastern sides of the main mass. The curved brackets of the posts and cornices and the elaborate cut-work of balconies and gables has something of the three-dimensional quality of Eastlake decoration, but is closer in general feeling to the earlier wooden trim of Italianate and stick-style buildings.

Inside, the wide spacious hall conveys an impression of monumental simplicity which belies the complex arrangement of rooms. A straight-run stairway is located in the stem end of the L-shaped plan and ascends to a spacious upper hall which looks out over multiple roofs over the one-story older part of the house in the rear. Notable features of the interior are two fine, black soapstone mantels inlaid with dark marble that are located in the double parlors behind the long veranda.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

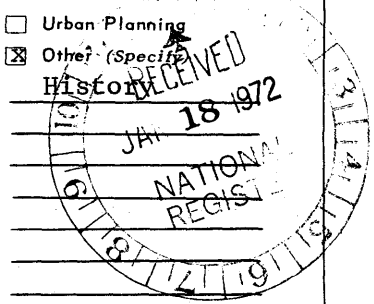
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" 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. 1793, c. 1805, c. 1885

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cedars is a good example of the large, rambling, asymmetrically composed and liberally ornamented home characteristic of the High Victorian era. The descendents of its builder, Marshall Sims, have perhaps expressed best the visual and associated emotional tone of the structure. They believe that Sims, himself, designed the house, building into the interior a kind of wasteful spaciousness that provided room for a boisterous family of ten children. The complex does convey an aura of the exuberance of Victorian family life, a kind of life which his grandchildren affectionately recall.

The history of the present building is as varied and interesting as the form of the structure itself. The land on which this home stands, as the Georgia Historical Commission marker in front points out, was once a homesite for Indians. Later the land belonged to George Walton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, to whom it was granted after the Revolution. He sold 1150 acres in 1786 to Thomas Wingfield, who, in 1792, sold 59½ acres to Dr. Anthony Poullain, his daughter Sarah's husband. Poullain, who built the first small frame home on this site, was a French physician who came to America and participated in the Revolutionary War as a surgeon. Poullain died in 1794, leaving a son, Thomas Noel, who later attended the Medical College of Philadelphia and settled in nearby Greensboro. Poullain's wife sold the house and land in 1803 to John Bolton, a wealthy merchant from Savannah. The house, with the additions and improvements made by Bolton, was then known as Bolton's Retreat. In 1813, Bolton sold the house and the land, which by that time totaled 210 acres, for \$3000 to Nicholas Long. Long owned lands to the north and east and gave the house in 1817 to his son Richard Harrison Long, who was living there at the time. Later the place came into the possession of Augustus H. Gibson, a merchant who kept a store on the square of the town and who died about 1837. From his estate in 1838 Francis Colley purchased the house and lot for \$2000. Colley, who died March 23, 1863, had willed the property on December 28, 1859, to his daughter Sarah Ann Francis, allowing her husband Milton G. Robert the privilege of improving the premises on which Colley still lived. The Roberts' daughter, Mary, was married to Marshall Mercer Sims in November, 1871, and on September 25, 1883, the Robert heirs sold 23 acres of the property to Sims for \$1400.

Sims, who had ten children, built the eleven-room addition which now constitutes the front part of the Cedars, which was known at the time as the Cedar Retreat. In an old photograph showing the family assembled in front of the newly completed Victorian facade is the first child born in this portion, now (1971) eighty-four years old, Mrs. Edna Green, who now lives in Florida. Also included in the photograph are two other daughters

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Eliza Bowen, The Story of Wilkes County, Georgia (Marietta, 1950).  
 Georgia Writer's Project, W.P.A., The Story of Washington-Wilkes (Athens, 1941).  
 Willis C. Lindsey, Sr., Homes and Sites of the Residents of Washington, Wilkes County, Georgia, compiled 1953-1958.  
 Willis C. Lindsey, Sr., A History of Washington, Wilkes County, Georgia, typewritten bound manuscript.  
 Grace Gilliam Davidson, Early Records of Georgia, I, II (Macon, 1932).  
 Anne Elizabeth Miller, comp., Our Family Circle.  
 Elizabeth A. Lyon, personal inspection, July, September, 1971.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

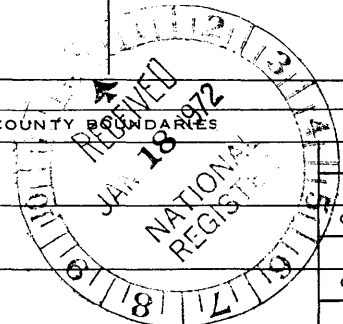
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		33° 44' 26"	88° 44' 21"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NO 47M  
CY

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2.63 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Dr. Elizabeth A. Lyon, consultant, Washington-Wilkes Historic Foundation**

ORGANIZATION: **Department of the History of Art** DATE: **October 25, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Emory University**

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 type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Mary Gregory Gurditt</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>January 12, 1972</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert M. Wiley</u>                  Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>4/11/72</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>J. Bradford</u>                  Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>April 5, 1972</u></p>
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

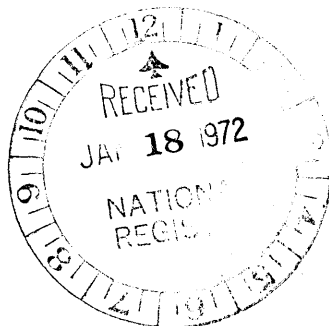
STATE Georgia	
COUNTY Wilkes	
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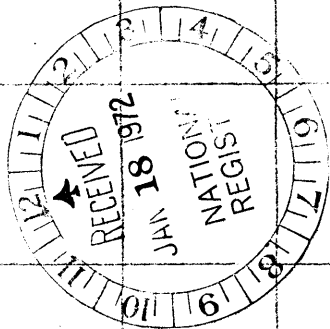
(Number all entries)

**8. Significance**

of Marshall Sims, Mrs. W. R. Latimer and Mrs. Bessie DeVaughn, who still live in the house.

The Cedars, occupying as it does a prominent location in the North Washington District, stands as an interesting example of the post-Civil War development of the town of Washington whose predominant domestic architectural form represents an earlier era. It commands a long vista down to the business district and public square and relates stylistically to the majority of late nineteenth-century buildings around that square.





STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA  
 DIVISION OF HIGHWAY PLANNING  
IN COOPERATION WITH  
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

CITY MAP  
**WASHINGTON**  
 WILKES COUNTY

SCALE IN FEET  
 0 660 1320

POPULATION 4440 (1960)  
 1969

Z 17  
 E 338950  
 N 3734635

G.M.D. 84

G.M.D. 179

