

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0675725
FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 25 1979
DATE ENTERED JUN 18 1979

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

White Hall

AND/OR COMMON

White Hall

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Whitehall and Simonton Bridge Rds.

Simonton Bridge Road and Whitehall Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Whitehall, vicinity of Athens

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Rep. Barnard - 10th District

STATE

Georgia

CODE

13

COUNTY

Clarke

CODE

059

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: caretaker residence
- MILITARY

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Frank C. Dunham, vice chancellor for construction and physical plant
Board of Regents, University System of Georgia

STREET & NUMBER

244 Washington Street, S.W.

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia 30334

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Superior Court

STREET & NUMBER

Clarke County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Athens

STATE

Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Structures Field Survey: Clarke County, Georgia

DATE

1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The House

White Hall is a large Queen Anne-style masonry house situated on landscaped grounds in the countryside. Its exterior features the irregular massing of major geometric forms and the picturesque piling of minor elements characteristic of the style. Its interior consists of a relatively open layout of rooms loosely organized around cross-axial corridors and the stairway. Ornamentation and detailing, throughout, although suggestive of the richness and diversity of the Queen Anne style (especially its combination of Renaissance and mediæval motifs and its wide range of materials), are somewhat restrained and subdued, partaking of the more sober feeling of the contemporary Richardsonian Romanesque style (the front porch with its huge round arch is an overt manifestation of this latter style). Construction is entirely masonry, with walls of common red brick laid in American bond and foundations of rough-faced stone laid in random fashion. Brick, stone, terra cotta and wood are used decoratively in stringcourses, sills, lintels, and panels on the exterior. The interior is finished with a variety of hardwoods (including white oak, curly maple, black cherry, birch, and walnut) in parquet flooring, paneled wainscoting, ceiling cornices and beams, and in stairway, doorway, and window joinery. Wallpaper and plaster are also used to finish interior walls. Windows are filled with sheet glass, leaded glass, beveled glass, etched glass, and stained glass set in wooden sash. The roof is primarily of channeled sheet metal, with small sections of pressed-sheet-metal imitation shingles.

The Grounds

White Hall is located in the countryside at the edge of the manufacturing hamlet of Whitehall. The grounds around the house are and always have been picturesquely landscaped according to the "English" aesthetic popular in the late-nineteenth century. Broad, undulating lawns, banks of shrubbery, trees in groups or singly, and gently-curving driveways and sidewalks constitute the historical and for the most part the contemporary setting of White Hall. Although reduced and simplified from their original magnificence, these grounds still retain the character and appearance of late-nineteenth-century landscape gardening and remain sympathetic with the architecture of the house.

Outbuildings

There is only one remaining outbuilding directly associated with White Hall: a small wellhouse immediately behind the house [the wellhouse appears at the right edge of photograph #2 and the left edge of photograph #5]. Other

[continued]

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1892

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Winstead Thomas

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

White Hall is significant in architecture, landscape architecture and local history: architecturally, as one of Georgia's most magnificent Queen Anne/Eclectic-style structures from the late Victorian Era; in local history as the home of factory owner and banker, John Richards White, one of Athens' and Clarke County's most important citizens, and in landscape architecture for its combination of English style of landscape gardening with late Victorian architecture.

White Hall is a superior example of late-Victorian architecture in Georgia. Its design combines aspects of the Queen Anne and Richardsonian Romanesque styles on the exterior with relatively open planning and layout on the interior. Its construction is substantial masonry. Quality materials, fine craftsmanship, and careful attention to details of finish are in evidence throughout. The landscaped setting is historically appropriate and enhances the overall appearance of the house.

The exterior of White Hall features the irregular massing of large geometric forms and the picturesque piling of minor elements characteristic of the Queen Anne style, yet with a massive overall quality that bespeaks of the contemporary Richardsonian Romanesque style. The large geometric masses constituting the house, although run together to some extent, are for the most part discrete, another hallmark of Richardsonian Romanesque design. What sets this house apart from ordinary, run-of-the-mill Victorian architecture is the way in which the overall massing is organized by an overriding design principle, a hierarchy in three dimensions -- in plan and elevation, from the center of the house outward, from the hip-roofed central mass through the flanking wings to the eills and porches -- a hierarchy of height, depth, and scale. This hierarchy can best be illustrated by the sequence of masses from the main hip-roofed central mass with its gabled projection through the southwest wing to the semi-cylindrical tower at its end, and the corresponding sequence of rooflines from the large front gable through the closed pediment dormer and the smaller hip-roofed dormer to the conical roof of the semi-cylindrical tower. Similar sequences are to be found on the other side of the house. This hierarchy of height, depth, and scale is held together by a carefully studied, evenly balanced asymmetry in the massing, by the long, low front porch, by the consistent use of details such as continuous stringcourses and uniform window sizes,

[continued]

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Draft of National Register form by Roger E. Templeton, student, University of Georgia, 1976.

The Athens Daily Banner, centennial edition, June 16, 1901 (photo of White Hall).

[continued]

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 (estimated)

QUADRANGLE NAME Athens East, Georgia

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 281410 37531020
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated property is described by a heavy black line drawn to scale on the attached "Sketch Map of Nominated Property." In general, this boundary is 150 feet from the walls of the house, 100 feet north of the [continued]

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; and Richard Cloues, Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation Section

ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources DATE March 1979

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 X 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elizabeth P. Lyon

TITLE Acting State Historic Preservation Officer Elizabeth A. Lyon

DATE 3/13/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles Abney
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

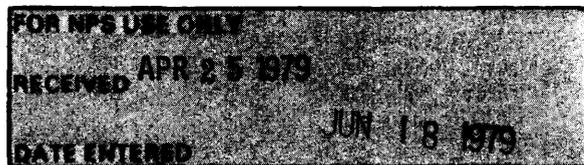
DATE 6-18-79

ATTEST: *Carl A. Duke*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 6/18/79

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outbuildings are known to have been associated with the house, and they have been removed or destroyed. Their locations are documented in a photograph ca. 1930. Of these, the most significant is the original White Hall, an early-nineteenth-century frame house. In 1890, in preparation for the construction of the new house, this older house was moved to the rear of the property, where it served as a school for the family. In 1906, it was moved again, but this time off the property to Dillard, Georgia, where it still stands.

Restoration and Reuse

In 1976, the School of Forest Resources of the University of Georgia restored White Hall. The exterior was cleaned, repaired, and painted. Inside, the first and second floors were returned to their turn-of-the-century appearance. The basement was remodeled into offices and conference rooms. The grounds were generally cleaned up, trimmed, and replanted as necessary. A new concrete front walk was installed, and a new parking lot was located behind the house. The extent and quality of this restoration was acknowledged in 1978 by an award from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation.

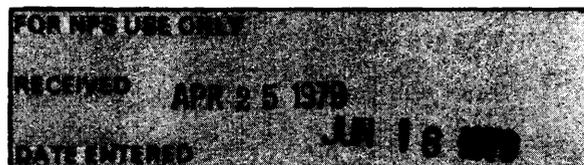
Boundaries

Aspects of White Hall to be included within the boundaries of this nomination include the house and its outbuilding, the immediate landscaped grounds, and the approach and vista along the driveway leading from Simonton Bridge Road. The historical boundaries of White Hall have been lost, due to numerous property transfers and land development. There are no fixed contemporary boundaries, either manmade or natural, around White Hall. Therefore, the boundaries for this nomination have been set at 150 feet from the walls of the house, 100 feet from the north edge of the driveway, and 150 feet from the south edge of the driveway. [See verbal boundary description and sketch map for precise description of boundaries.] These boundaries include all extant salient features of White Hall, as well as the site of the known outbuildings associated with the property but no longer extant.

White Hall is situated on the "campus" of the School of Forest Resources of the University of Georgia. To the west, south and east of White Hall are School of Forest Resources buildings. While occupying land once belonging to White Hall, these buildings do not intrude upon the house or its immediate surroundings.

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and by the consistent use of materials, both decoratively and constructively. The entire composition is dominated by the arched "porte-cochere" entrance.

The interior of White Hall consists of a relatively open layout of spaces that seem at first to be rather casually disposed and yet are actually very carefully related. The interior spaces -- rooms -- are organized around and related by a central entry hall, corridors, and stairways. Double doors permit variations between discrete spaces and continuous flowing space. There are alignments between certain architectural elements and directed spaces; for example, the corridor from the main entry hall to the dining room focuses on the dining room fireplace. There is also a balanced asymmetry on the interior; for example, the fireplace in the living room is balanced by the double doorway across the room, and the central entry hall is balanced by corridors in one direction and the stair hall in the other. Cross-axes, such as the French windows/corridor doorway in the living room, complicate but do not confuse the interior of the house.

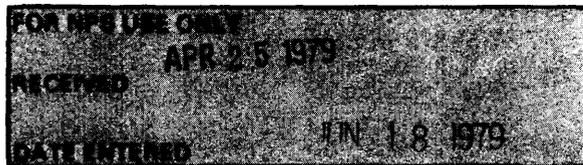
Ornamentation and detailing throughout, although suggestive of the richness and diversity of the Queen Anne style (especially its use of medieval and Renaissance motifs and its wide range of materials), are subdued and restrained, partaking of the more sober feeling of the Richardsonian Romanesque. Emphasis is upon bold, large-scale, geometric ornamentation, such as the large panels of terra cotta tiles, and upon constructional detailing, such as stringcourses, lintels and sills, and arches. On the exterior, ornamentation and detailing are, furthermore, hierarchically arranged to correspond with the hierarchy of plan, elevation, and scale; for example, the center of the front of the house is most elaborately detailed, the wings and sides are less extensively ornamented, and the rear of the house has no decoration whatsoever. On the interior, ornamentation and detailing enhance, rather than detract from the spatial organization.

White Hall is built with substantial brick-and-stone masonry. Brick, stone, terra cotta, and wood are used decoratively on the exterior. A variety of woods, plaster, and wallpaper are used on the interior. All these materials, whether constructive or decorative, are of high quality and have been handled with expert craftsmanship and careful attention to detail. White Hall sits in landscaped surroundings that enhance its appearance and that are historically appropriate. White Hall was built at a time when the "English"

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style of landscape gardening was at its peak in America. The casual appearance of the "English" landscape -- its broad expanses of gently rolling lawns, its wandering paths and drives, its irregularly situated groups of bushes and trees -- corresponded wonderfully with the balanced asymmetry and studied picturesqueness of the Victorian architecture. What the original setting of White Hall has lost in terms of integrity and expanse is effectively countered by the richness and diversity of the current mature landscape. At White Hall, architecture and landscape continue to work together in creating a single design.

John R. White (1847-1918) was the son of John White and Jane Richards, natives of Ireland, who came to Athens, Georgia, around 1837. John was a textile expert and became manager of the Georgia Manufacturing Company on the Oconee River in Clarke County. The mill, begun in 1827, was one of the earliest in Georgia. He built a home near the mill, where he died in 1881, his wife surviving until 1891.

John Richards White (born in Clarke County in 1847) took over his father's interests and became a prominent banker and industrialist. After serving in the Civil War (which caused him to drop out of the University of Georgia), he succeeded his father as president of the Georgia Manufacturing Company (The Georgia Factory) at Whitehall and became president of the Whitehall Yarn Mills, the Athens Foundry and Machine Works, the Athens Compress Company, and the National Bank of Athens. He was also a director of the Southern Mutual Insurance Company. A Democrat and a Presbyterian, he married Lillie Paine of Newton County, at age 35, in 1882.

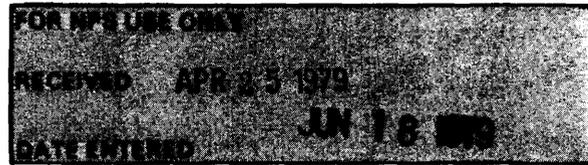
The community of Whitehall predates the house, having been settled around the Georgia Factory. The town was incorporated October 15, 1891, and its boundaries extended three-quarters of a mile from the factory at the river, including the nominated property. The town was dissolved in 1967.

The original factory burned in 1892 and was rebuilt around 1893, shortly after the house was completed. Another factory, known as Whitehall Manufacturing Company, was opened in May of 1895. It was here that pants, shirts and drawers were made. John R. White was treasurer and manager of this new factory. A future National Register nomination will include the mills and mill village.

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At about the same time, his brother, James, purchased the Princeton Factory in the same county from the Hamilton family, another well-established Georgia family forced to sell due to a court order.

Sometime after 1890, the original White Hall house, built by the senior White, was moved from its location to the rear of the home site to serve as a school for the White children. In 1906, this home was moved to Dillard, Georgia, where it still stands and remains in the White family. After moving his father's house, John R. White built this imposing brick Queen Anne structure. Coincidentally or on purpose, he apparently did not build until after his mother's death in 1891.

It is significant that the name of the town and house (although written differently) reflect, for a former British subject, the name by which the center of government in London is known. Even though the name could be justified by his own surname, John White must have had some feeling when using this well-known name for his town and house.

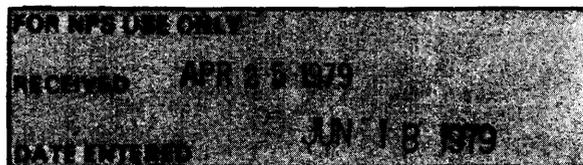
The house was completed by August 10, 1892, when it was the scene of the wedding of Mrs. White's sister, Sally Paine (1865-1938), to Asberry H. Hodgson (1850-1913), a wealthy widower of Athens. His niece, Nannette Hodgson, now Mrs. Hugh Gordon of Athens, recalls journeying to attend the ceremony held in the main parlor on a private railway car owned by the groom. She feels this was the first major social event at the newly-built house, but indicates that since the Whites were not ostentatious, little note was taken of the affair in the local press. The home appeared on a map published in July of 1892, and a photograph of it appeared in Charles Morton Strahan's Clarke County, Georgia and the City of Athens, which went on sale in Athens in May of 1893. From the foliage in the photograph and the time taken then to develop photographs and publish a pamphlet, it is felt that these photographs date from the summer of 1892. In the tax digests, the value of household and kitchen furniture jumped from \$785 in 1891 to \$1,900 in 1892, again indicating a major change.

The definitive identification of the architect has eluded research. The most competent architect flourishing in Athens at this time, and one to whom several family members have attributed the design and building of the house, was William Winstead Thomas (1848-1904). His plans exist for his own house, completed in 1896 (now the Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority House, also known as the Thomas-Carithers House), which show his skill.

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The interior details of his own home are similar to those of White Hall. Thomas used Thomas Butell's fireplace designs in his home. He also built a home for Mrs. W.P. Welch, sister of John R. White, which he completed around 1890. Even though this home no longer exists, photographs of it show Thomas' versatility in its eclecticism. As for the monumentality of White Hall, Thomas' design for the nearby Oconee County Courthouse, completed around 1887, show his ability to design and construct a building the size of White Hall, which certainly has features resembling a courthouse. Members of the White and Paine families recall Mrs. White chastizing Thomas for the peculiar staircase which forces one to enter the upstairs from only one location. Thomas also served on the committee for the new State Capitol in Atlanta in 1889. This was designed by the famous firm of Edbrooke and Burnam of Chicago.

After the death of Mrs. White, Mr. White remarried Lena H. Towns, his children's former governess, in 1917. Family members vividly recall that the new Mrs. White hastily redid the house, painting over the vibrant wood strains, covering beautiful floors with grey carpet, adding wallpaper, cutting down the magnolias out front, yet they also recall that she moved out after Mr. White's death, never remarried, and got along amicably with her stepchildren and former pupils for the rest of her life. The changes she wrought were not undone until the recent restoration.

The site had many outbuildings at one time. Family members remember a scuppernong arbor and a wine press in the basement, and a gazebo and various brick outbuildings existed until the 1930s. Mr. White, Sr., willed his property to his children jointly, causing a paternalist system to develop. Most of the White and Paine grandchildren went to school there, since their parents lived nearby. When the White children married, they moved into one of the nearby homes vacated by an uncle or aunt. There was a depot nearby, since the house adjoined the Georgia Railroad. Descendants also recall the fine interiors of the upper-story rooms of the house, including the Walnut Room, so called due to its fine finish.

John R. White died here in 1918, his first wife having died in 1915. Of their four children, Hugh W. White moved into the house and lived there until 1925, when he moved to Florida. A number of his children were born in the house. His brother, Robert P. White, was the next to move in and lived there until 1935-36, when the land and house were acquired by the Georgia Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, a government agency designed to retire worn-out

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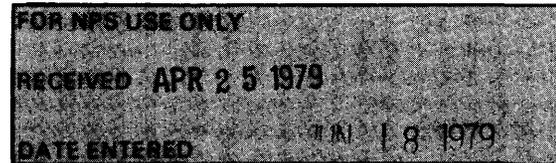
farm land. The land, comprising a total of 1,875 acres, was deeded to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia on July 15, 1936, who remains the owner. A 750-acre tract south of White Hall became the White Hall Experimental Forest, and caretakers for this project occupied the house for a number of years. Charles H. Huntsinger was the last one to live in the house, doing so from 1949-1966. The house was then converted into offices and laboratories to ease the space problem at the University's School of Forest Resources while a new building was being completed on the main campus. The house was used in that capacity until 1969, after which it was vacant for a few years.

After plans for a restoration of the house were formulated, they were financed by the salvage of insect-killed timber from the experimental forest and the sale of timber from other University-owned lands. The formal reopening of the restored home took place on April 17, 1977.

At the tenth annual meeting of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation in March of 1978, the University of Georgia School of Forest Resources received one of the first three annual awards for outstanding restoration projects. Today, the upstairs rooms are the residence for the caretaker of the School of Forest Resources properties. The restored rooms on the main floor are open for receptions and other arranged entertainment, while the basement is used for meetings.

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Strahan, Charles M. Clarke County, Georgia and the City of Athens (Athens, 1893).

Correspondence and interviews with Dr. William A. Campbell, Athens, Georgia, 1978 (including tax digest abstracts, family lore, and newspaper items).

Memoirs of Georgia, Vol. I (Atlanta, 1895), "Biographical Sketch of John R. White."

Interviews with Dr. Louis DeVorse, Department of Geography, University of Georgia, 1978; and T.H. Milner, Jr., Athens (White relative); and other members of the White family at various locations.

Interview with Mrs. Hugh Gordon (nee Nannette Hodgson of Athens), August, 1978, who attended the Hodgson-Paine wedding at the house in 1892.

10. Verbal Boundary Description

driveway between the house and Simonton Bridge Road, and 150 feet south of the driveway between the house and Simonton Bridge Road, except that the boundary does not include the land of Thomas Textiles directly north of the west end of the driveway, and instead follows a fence along the property line.