Form	10-300
(Rev.	6-72)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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1	STATE:			

Georgia

COUNTY:

Bibb

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

COMMON:				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		<u></u>
Villa Albicini						
AND/OR HISTORIC:	-				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
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7.	DESCRIPTION								
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Villa Albicini, the small-scaled residence villa designed in the late 1920's by the Atlanta architectural firm of Hentz, Reid & Adler is an example of the revived Italian Baroque style. Built from plans dated August 22, 1922, for a local nurseryman, D. C. Horgan, Villa Albicini (originally called the Horgan House) remains virtually unaltered from its original design as a synthesis of an Italian Baroque chapel, an Italian villa and the American elements of a curved double entrance stairway and the low height of the basement.

The exterior of the Villa is primarily stucco and stone with a clay tile roof. The central portion of the front facade, a one story version of an Italian Baroque church, has a scroll pediment that spans the central section and is decorated with cast stone floral motifs and ball ornaments. Heavy pilasters and beaded coursing in the stucco facade emphasize vertical and horizontal lines. Symmetrical in facade design, the two windows on both sides of the scroll pedimented doorway are crowned with heavy pediments and have louvred shutters. A curved double entrance stairway, with a cast stone balustrade leads to the doorway. On either side of this miniature chapel section are two square wings each with a two sided open portico. The side and rear elevations are plainly detailed and do not compete with the front facade. Windows of these elevations have no pediments and no trim, the stucco being returned into the window frame. All stuccoed surfaces are rose-colored with trim and stone-work painted cream.

Originally a two-bedroom house, the owners had a third bedroom added at a later date over the sun parlor at the rear. Access to this bedroom is gained by a stair off the hall. A linen closet and clothes closet have been altered from the original to accommodate this stair. The remainder of the interior is relatively unchanged. The marbled floor front entrance hall is flanked by the living room on the right and the dining room on the left. A domed and skylighted circular hall occupies the center of the house, lighting the interior of the house and diverting traffic to other parts of the house. Side halls to the left and right of the circular hall lead to bedrooms on the right and kitchen and breakfast room on the left. The sun parlor is on axis with the entrance hall and is to the rear of the circular hall. Three steps down from the rest of the house, the sun parlor is a light airy room. A partial basement houses mechanical equipment. The predominate color used in the interior are pinks, orchids and greens.

Original chandeliers and wall sconces of Venetian glass add to the beauty of the interior. These elegant fixtures are of floral design reflecting the original owner's love of plants.

When the house was purchased in 1964 by Mrs. Curtis, some remodeling was done, but no structural changes were made; three mantels were replaced, mirrors were added in the sun parlor and the 17th century French tapestry panels and marbleized panels below the wainscotting were added in the dining room. Exterior changes by architect Delmar A. Warren included the addition of high stucco walls and entrance gates in keeping with the design of the house. Within these walls he has managed to incorporate much of the quite extensive original gardens.

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Georgia	
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FOR NPS USE ONL	.Y
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8. Significance

may be seen in this eclectic structure in the use of a curved, double entrance stairway and the low height of the basement. In Italian Renaissance structures, stairways were more direct in their approach to the entrances and basements were considerably higher. In plan Villa Albicini is significant in that its centrally located round domed room, like the Renaissance villa, gives access to most of the rooms in the four quadrants surrounding the "rotunda."

The Villa Albicini is an exceptionally fine, small-scale period house on a small lot without extensive grounds. The Wesleyan campus and the house, however, share the same environment and are on axis, as in the manner of Beaux Arts planning. The style, scale, and monumentality of the Horgan House as compared to those of this same era and general style (including the Swan House, the Pink Castle, and the Robinson House, all in Atlanta) is of a different order. The Villa Albicini is the one that can be most comfortably called Italian Baroque Revival.



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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

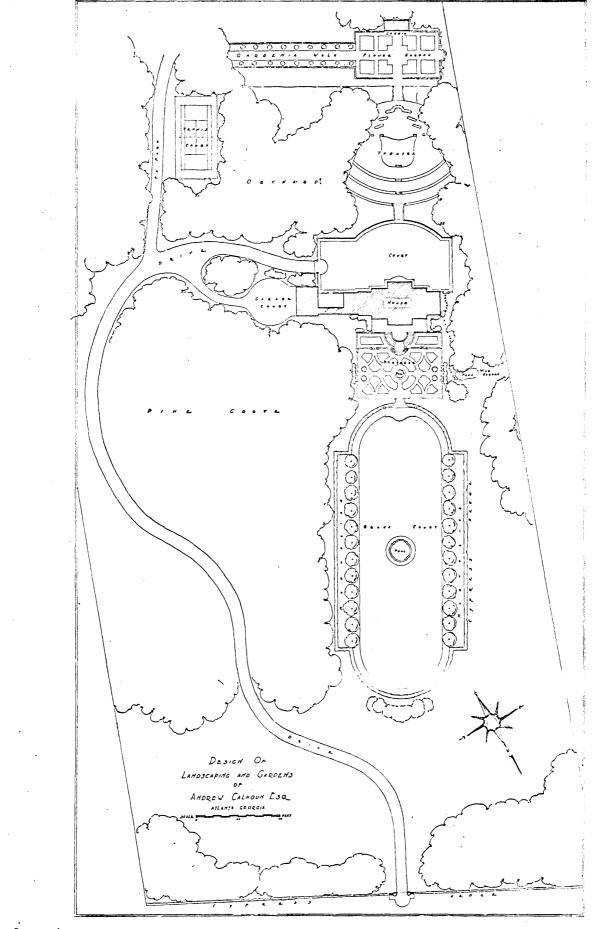
The Villa Albicini, located across from the Wesleyan College campus, was designed and built in the late 1920's by the Atlanta architectural firm of Hentz, Reid and Adler. In the Italian Baroque Revival style, the villa is a synthesis in facade and plan of an Italian church, a Renaissance villa and elements of American architectural design. It is an excellent example of the American period house, designed by architects working according to the principles of creative eclectism taught in late 19th and early 20th century architectural schools and ateliers.

Plans for a Horgan House were probably begun by Neel Reid before his death, after which the firm completed the work. Philip Shutze has been given special credit for the design of this house. Shutze, a native Georgian who had won the Prix de Rome about the time of the First World War, traveled and studied in Europe for a number of years including a tour of duty as an Army Red Cross Officer. During Shutze's extended European sojourn, he took many architectural photographs and made several large scrapbooks which he later used as design source books. When he returned to Georgia, he began working for Hentz, Reid and Adler. (James Means, who was apprenticed to this firm at the age of 14 was the source of the above information. Means remembers working on the Horgan House although he plays down any involvement with its inspiration or its design.) Reid who was the firm's best designer was no doubt especially pleased to get a Prix de Rome winner full of new design ideas backed by hundreds of excellent photographs. One of these design study photographs, a chapel at Villa Cuzzano located near Verona, Italy, served as the influence for the Villa Albicini.

Mr. Daniel Churchill Horgan, for whom the Horgan House (or Villa Albicini as it is presently called) was built, owned and operated a florist shop in Macon and gained a nation-wide reputation as a florist. Horgan had secured the land for his greenhouse, main house and gardens from I. H. Plant who had owned and operated a horse farm and race tracks, part of which are still situated nearby.

The Villa Albicini is quite significant as an example of design based on the tenets of creative eclectism. The central portion of the front facade is a small scale, one-story version of an Italian Baroque Church such as Carlo Moderno might have designed in the 16th century or Francesco Borromini in the 17th century. On each side of this central portion are two porticos as found on the Italian Renaissance villas. American influence (continued)

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