

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICEPH 0666 106
FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

APR 3 1978

DATA SHEET

DATE ENTERED

JUL 20 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Grice Inn

AND/OR COMMON

Grice Inn

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East Elm Street

CITY, TOWN

Wrightsville

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st -- Ginn

STATE

Georgia

CODE

13

COUNTY

Johnson

CODE

167 ✓

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

___COMMERCIAL

___EDUCATIONAL

___ENTERTAINMENT

___GOVERNMENT

___INDUSTRIAL

___MILITARY

___MUSEUM

___PARK

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___RELIGIOUS

___SCIENTIFIC

___TRANSPORTATION

☒ OTHER: Vacant**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Johnson County Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Wrightsville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia 31096

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Johnson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Wrightsville

STATE

Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Grice Inn in Wrightsville, Georgia, is located on the north side of Elm Street, two blocks east of Court House Square. Although the lot rises above the street, the site had to be dug out in order for the first floor to be at street level. This excavation was done at the corner of the lot where State Street intersects with Elm. The inn is a two story, four over four room, rectangular plan with central hallway. It is built of masonry and wood frame construction. The most prominent feature is the double porch with lattice balustrade that extends around two sides of the house. Its corner orientation is in the direction of the railroad station as opposed to downtown. Also prominent is the roof profile. It is one of a gable resting on a hip. Two interior chimneys extend from the apex. The windows in the house all have nine over nine lights. Immediately behind the back porch an addition of two rooms was made two years after the initial construction.

Across the front and on both levels, a central door is flanked on each side by two windows. The composition of the State Street elevation is the same as the front except that there is no door on the upper level. Paradoxically, on the side that is seen coming from town, there are only two windows on the second level. This gives a more stark impression of the inn than that given by the other elevations. The brick lower level is laid in stretcher bond. Segmented arches cap each opening. It is said that the windows on the first level had shutters at one time. Insets in the brick flank each window into which these shutters would have fitted. The upper level is wood frame and covered with clapboards. The porches have a shed roof supported by chamfered wood posts. The supports on the first level rest on a low brick wall. It is interesting that the posts on the upper porch are not, in every case, aligned with those of the lower porch. Also, there is one less post on the upper side porch than on the lower. The exterior doors are panelled and glazed with carved stick flowers in the square panels above and below the large square glass panel. Underneath the back porch, between the exterior wall of the house and a parallel retaining wall, is a "cellar" where meat was stored. The two room addition on the back was so built that the back porch became a functional dog-trot between the main house and the two rooms. The construction is the same as that of the upper level of the main house except that the floor is raised above the ground on brick posts. There is a central chimney in the addition. Also on the back porch there has been the addition of a bathroom.

On the first level inside, the floor is made of hexagonal concrete tiles that have been used frequently as sidewalk paving. The walls are plastered. The stair which is located at the rear of the hall is doglegged with the upper run enclosed. The lower run appears to be altered so that an enclosed toilet could be put on the landing. A lavatory is located next to the stairway. The room at the rear right served as the kitchen and connects to the dining room at the front right by a small hall. This hall also contains a side entry. Upstairs, narrow, horizontal, tongue and groove boards are used for the walls, floors, and ceiling. There is some decay in the floor and ceiling of the rear left room due to a leaking roof. As in the

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

balustrade of the front porch, the one around the top of the stairs is also latticed. There is a gate also at the top of the stairs. The interior doors all contain four panels and have porcelain doorknobs. Victorian mantels with mirrors are used throughout the house and closets flank the chimneys. The lighting consists of a single bulb on a drop cord in each room.

Outside, a brick retaining wall parallels Elm Street extending westward from the edge of the front porch. Dirt from the excavation for the house was probably used for fill behind the wall to create a level area at the side of the house.

(10)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☐ 1800-1899	☒ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1905 BUILDER/ARCHITECT J. R. Grice

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Grice Inn, built 1905, is an unusual example of vernacular architecture whose form is unique to Middle Georgia and contains stylistic elements unprecedented in the state. It is a landmark to the community of Wrightsville, having played a significant role in the development of this small rural town during the period of its greatest growth. J. R. Grice, a local farmer and carpenter, built the structure as a home for his family and as an inn. For twenty years it served as a town social center where students boarded, couples or senior citizens rented rooms, and townspeople took their meals. Located near the railroad station, it was conveniently placed for hotel traffic.

Johnson County and the town of Wrightsville - founded late in the development of this region - were relatively undistinguished except for good farm and timberland. During the years 1870-1910, the county had its most significant growth, nearly doubling in population every decade. The Depression, however, halted growth as it did in most rural areas. During World War II, the county population began to decline. Wrightsville has managed a small growth pattern from that time until today.

It was during the height of Wrightsville's growth that J. R. Grice bought a lot in town from the Baptist Church. Having been a carpenter, he built the structure in 1905 and moved his family to town. Reportedly, he cut the timber for the structure at his farm and let it cure for a year before beginning construction. His three sons were all young men by this time and may have helped in the construction of the house.

Students at Warthen College, a small grade school and Junior College in Wrightsville, made up the bulk of the Grice Inn clientele. Because of an evident demand, Grice added two more rooms on the back of the house three years after it was built. The Grices operated the inn for fifteen years, retiring in 1920. It was taken over by Mrs. Ida A. McWhorter, who ran it for another five or six years. She and her husband, James (Wrightsville's postmaster), attempted to buy the inn but were unable to continue the payments. The house then reverted back to Grice. Subsequently, it was rented out as apartments. Grice died in 1927. After division and redivision of the estate, the eldest son, Milo, acquired the structure. It continued to be rented as apartments for 17 years. Milo Grice sold the house in 1936 to W. L. Tompkins who later sold it to Robert Lord in 1944. Miss Belle Lord bought the house from her brother at that time. She lived there and rented rooms until recently when she sold the house to Mr. and Mrs. E. Hodges Rowland. The Johnson County Historical Society acquired the site in 1977 and plans to restore it to its original condition for use as a community center. During its seventy years of existence, the Grice Inn has played a central role in the history of Wrightsville.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

A major portion of the structure's significance is architectural. The design stems from the French Colonial architecture found along the Mississippi River Valley, the West Indies and Eastern Canada. Its resemblance to the House on Ellicott's Hill, a National Historic Landmark, built in 1799, is remarkable. In the Grice House, however, the galleries are not encompassed in the roof profile of the house and the pitch does not change between the gabled and hipped portions of the roof. Even though the raised cottage is indigenous to Coastal Georgia, this is, as far as can be ascertained, the first time a form of this French Colonial style with its unique roof profile and galleries has been used in the state. The Grice Inn is also unique in being a raised cottage style located in the piedmont region. Nonetheless, it is well suited for use as an inn located in a warm, humid climate. Grice, in designing a modern structure, has managed to retain the integrity of this much older form. The inn has a pronounced simplicity, yet is an effective synthesis of contemporary elements with the original style.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliographical ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2
References

- Miller, Ron, Architectural Historian, Mississippi Division of Archives & History, Natchez, Ms., telephone interview by John Compton, August, 1977.
- Cook, J. Munroe, Wrightsville, Georgia, Personal interview by John Compton and Mrs. Mary Ann Rowland, August, 1977.
- Sumner, Grady, Wrightsville, Georgia, Personal interview by John Compton, August 1977.
- Lord, Clayton, Wrightsville, Georgia, Personal interview by John Compton, August 1977.
- Lord, Miss Belle, Wrightsville, Georgia, Personal interview by Mrs. Mary Ann Rowland, August 1977.
- Sanders, Mrs. Virginia McWhorter, Wrightsville, Georgia, Personal interview by Mrs. Mary Ann Rowland, August 1977.
- Stewart, Mrs. Allene Grice, Milledgeville, Georgia, Telephone interview by John Compton, August 1977.
- Joiner, Mrs. Lillian Hartley, Niece of Mrs. J. R. Grice, Tennile, Georgia, Personal interview by John Compton, August 1977.
- Linley, John, Architecture of Middle Georgia in the Oconee Area.
Personal Inspection, John Compton, August 1977.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Geographical Data TEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Verbal Boundary Description:

130 feet to a point where the property of E. H. Hamilton begins; thence north from that point along the line between the two properties approximately 105 feet to a point; and thence east approximately 130 feet along the line between the property and that of Grady Sumner (this line having been marked by a wire fence since 1930 when the Grice estate was divided) to the point of origin on State Street. The inn is situated 4 feet from State Street and 13 feet from East Elm Street.

13

Property

Grace Inn

State

Ga.

Working Number

4.3.78.2833

78000993
Johnson

TECHNICAL

Photos *11*

Maps *1*

Mon dieu, y'all! Latin Roots of Georgia

CONTROL

OK pl
4.6.78

HISTORIAN

ACCEPT! 5/23/78

Joe Turner

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept -
L. Beebe 5/14/78

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

*of architectural significance as
a very late (1905) version of 18thC Mississippi
Valley French colonial architecture.*

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Labovich
6/8/78

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Approved
7/2/78

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered *JUL 20 1978*

Federal Register Entry *9.5.78*

Re-submit

INT:2106-74



Grice Inn, Wrightsville, Johnson County
Photographer: David H. Payne
Date: March 1976
Negatives filed: David H. Payne, 403 S.
Main Street, Greensboro, Georgia 30642
Photograph: Interior view of first floor
rooms, photographer facing west

JUL 20 1978 APR 3 1978

1211

(55)



Grice Inn, Wrightsville, Johnson County
Photographer: David H. Payne
Date: March 1976
Negatives filed: David H. Payne, 403 S.
Main Street, Greensboro, Georgia 30642
Photograph: South and east facades, corner
of East Elm and State Streets, photographer
facing northwest

2811

JUL 20 1978 APR 3 1978

(57)



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Grice Inn, Wrightsville, Johnson County

Photographer: David H. Payne

Date: March 1976

Negatives filed: David H. Payne, 403 S.
Main Street, Greensboro, Georgia 30642

Photograph: Detail of door and segmental
arch on the east side of the house,
photographer facing west

APR 3 1978

JUL 20 1978

3811

(29)



APR 3 1978

Grice Inn, Wrightsville, Johnson County

Photographer: David H. Payne

Date: March 1976

Negatives filed: David H. Payne, 403 S.
Main Street, Greensboro, Georgia 30642

Photograph: View of front entrance door
(south side of house on East Elm Street),
photographer facing north

JUL 20 1978

4 11



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Grice Inn, Wrightsville, Johnson County

Photographer: David H. Payne

Date: March 1976

Negatives filed: David H. Payne, 403 S.

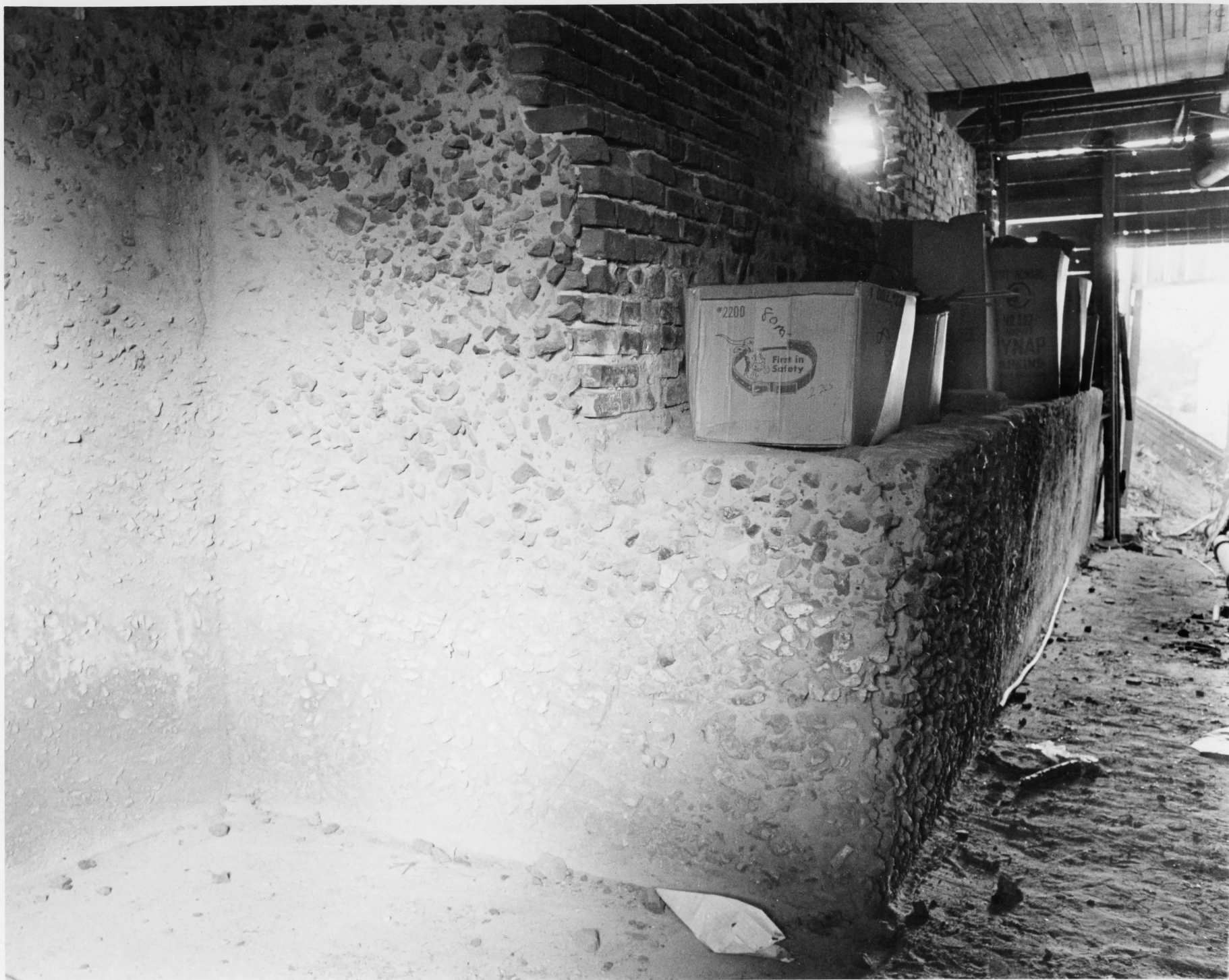
Main Street, Greensboro, Georgia 30642

Photograph: View of interior fireplace and
mantelpiece, photographer facing west

JUL 20 1978

APR 3 1978

5011



cf

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Grice Inn, Wrightsville, Johnson County

Photographer: David H. Payne

Date: March 1976

Negatives filed: David H. Payne, 403 S.
Main Street, Greensboro, Georgia 30642

Photograph: Brick and rock underpinings
beneath the north addition to the main
structure, photographer facing east

JUL 20 1978

APR 3 1978 6411

35



8

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Grice Inn, Wrightsville, Johnson County

Photographer: David H. Payne

Date: March 1976

Negatives filed: David H. Payne, 403 S.

Main Street, Greensboro, Georgia 30642

Photograph: View of latticework on second
story balcony, south (East Elm Street)
side of house, photographer facing
southwest

JUL 20 1978

APR 3 1978 7g11



9

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Grice Inn, Wrightsville, Johnson County

Photographer: David H. Payne

Date: March 1976

Negatives filed: David H. Payne, 403 S.
Main Street, Greensboro, Georgia 30642

Photograph: View of the northeast facade,
photographer facing southwest

JUL 20 1978

APR 3 1978

8411

39



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Grice Inn, Wrightsville, Johnson County

Photographer: David H. Payne

Date: March 1976

Negatives filed: David H. Payne, 403 S.

Main Street, Greensboro, Georgia 30642

Photograph: View of brickwork and under-
pinings on west side of the main structure,
photographer facing north

JUL 20 1978

APR 3 1978

9 of 11

411



2

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Grice Inn, Wrightsville, Johnson County

Photographer: David H. Payne

Date: March 1976

Negatives filed: David H. Payne, 403 S.
Main Street, Greensboro, Georgia 30642

Photograph: View from East Elm Street of
southeast facade, photographer facing
northeast

JUL 20 1978

APR 3 1978 10 9 11



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Grice Inn, Wrightsville, Johnson County

Photographer: David H. Payne

Date: March 1976

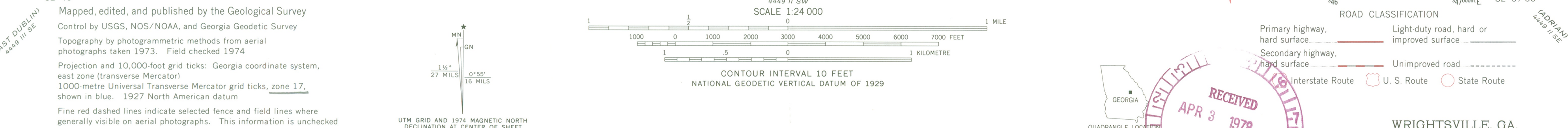
Negatives filed: David H. Payne, 403 S.
Main Street, Greensboro, Georgia 30642

Photograph: View from State Street of south-
east facade, photographer facing southwest

JUL 20 1978

APR 3 1978 11 of 11

45



Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

AMS 4449 II NW—SERIES V845

AMS 4449 II NW—SERIES V845



Department of Natural Resources

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH

270 WASHINGTON ST., S.W.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

(404) 656-5160

Joe H. Tanner
COMMISSIONER

Charles H. Harriah, III
DIVISION DIRECTOR



State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Natural Resources
270 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Gentlemen:

I understand that you intend to nominate The Grice House
Wrightsville, Johnson County to the National Register
of Historic Places which includes or effects property in my ownership. By
my signature below I hereby give you permission to proceed with this nomination.

Sincerely,

E. Hodges Rowland
Signature

4/6/76
Date

I do ☐ or I do not ☒ request a public hearing be held regarding the
proposed nomination. (Please check the appropriate block).

RECEIVED

APR 7 1976

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

631.
4/76
10/5

(14)

3

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE GEORGIA

Date Entered JUL 20 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Grice Inn	Wrightsville Johnson County
Augusta Cotton Exchange Building	Augusta Richmond County
King, Tandy, House	Fayetteville vicinity Fayette County
Central Building, State Lunatic Asylum	Milledgeville Baldwin County

Also Notified

Honorable Sam Nunn
Honorable Herman E. Talmadge
Honorable Bo Ginn
Honorable D. Douglas Barnard, Jr.
Honorable John J. Flynt, Jr.
Honorable Billy Lee Evans

Acting State Historic Preservation Officer
Dr. Elizabeth A. Lyon
Department of Natural Resources
270 Washington Street SW., Room 703 C
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Grice Inn		② OTHER NAMES:		③ date of entry: JUL 20 1978		④ county code: 167	
⑤ LOCATION street & number E. Elm St.		city / town Wrightsville		vicinity of		state GA	
⑥ NPS REGION: SE		county Johnson					
⑦ OWNER ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)						⑧ ADMINISTRATOR:	
⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL		⑩ FUNDED? ☐ YES ☐ NO		⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT 1st		⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL	
⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO		⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO		⑮ ACREAGE		if state who prepared form? SHPO staff	
⑯ CONDITION ☐ excellent ☐ good ☐ fair		☐ deteriorated ☐ ruins ☐ unexposed ☐ unexcavated		☐ altered ☐ unaltered ☐ reconstructed ☐ excavated		⑰ features: ☐ original site ☐ moved ☐ unknown	
⑱ ACCESS ☐ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown		⑲ ADAPTIVE USE ☐ YES ☐ NO		⑳ SAVED? ☐ YES		IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☐ no	
㉑ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE : ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☐ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ART-5		☐ ENGINEERING-11 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ EDUCATION-10		☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ PHILOSOPHY-20		☐ POLITICS/GOVT.-21 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25	
☐ RECREATION-28 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)		㉒ CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☐ 'only' ☐					
㉓ functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:				㉔ dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:		㉕ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION	
㉖ architectural style(s):		㉗ architect:		㉘ master builder:		㉙ engineer:	
㉚ landscape architect / garden designer:		㉛ interior decorator:		㉜ artist:		㉝ artisan:	
㉞ builder/contractor:							
㉟ NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:							
㊱ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP							