Form 10-300 (Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Georgia	
COUNTY:	

Richmond FOR NPS USE ONLY

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7. DESCRIPTION (Check One) CONDITION Excellent 💢 Good: Fair 🗍 Deteriorated 🔲 Ruins 🗌 Unexposed (Check One) (Check One) INTEGRITY Unaltered 📉 Altered 🗍 Moved 🗌 Original Site X

Mackay House, an historic house opened to the public in 1964, contains Pre-Revolutionary and Revolutionary Period exhibits and furnishings. When the Historical Commission acquired the threestory frame structure in 1956, it was valued because it survived a bloody Revolutionary War battle. 19th and 20th century additions, careless tenants and three fires had not obscured its mid-eighteenth century character. Thomas G. Little, an Atlanta architect formerly with Colonial Williamsburg's architectural staff, directed the restoration until his death in 1962. Ernest M. Frank. Williamsburg's Director of Architecture succeeded him. Physical evidence combined with thorough documentary research suggests a building date of about 1760. Not only the earliest and best surviving example of American Georgian architecture in the former thirteenth colony, the following features distinguish it from all other colonial period houses in Georgia: (1) The two-tiered, twostory piazza constituting the front façade is a coastal Carolina type, resembling a group of houses near Edenton. North Carolina. Such porches are modifications of a West Indian style. (2) The gambrel roof, rare in Georgia, and the general appearance indicates New England influences especially Newport, Rhode Island. (3) The interior woodwork and the front entrance show unusual dependence on the more academic builder's handbooks, namely Swan's British Architect (London, 1745) and Salmon's Palladio Londensis (London, 1734). (4) The rear galleried piazza shelters a staircase which is the only access to the second and third stories. EXTERIOR: Two single outside brick chimneys at "gable ends" of gambrel roof. Clapboards crowned front and rear by a simple modillion cornice. Tiered piazzas supported by chamfered wooden post with "lamb's tonques." Rear piazza inset between small rooms which flank, and open onto, it. Nine-over-nine windows with solid-pane shutters painted dark red. Front doorway with fluted pilasters on pedestals and entablature ornamented with pulvinated frieze and mod#11ion cornice: the whole almost directly from plates 22 and 24 of Palladio Londensis. Double doors with alternating vertical and horizontal panels topped with glass insets. The house painted its original grayish blue. INTERIOR: On each of two main floors wide central halls running between piazza doors. First floor hal way vaulted ceiling. Two main rooms off each hall. (Third story under gambrel roof, one large room.) Small rooms flank rear piaz on both floors. Best woodwork found in large first floor room on the west (drawing room): "Dog-ear" motifs on chimney piece and doorways enrich stately room with plaster walls above a chair rail, and a wood dado with one large panel below. Formal entablature with pulvinated frieze and dentils supports mantel shelf. / See plate 51, Swan's British Architect (London, 1745). 7 Original colors restored throughout house.

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PERIOD (Check One or M	lore as A	ppropriate)					
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.) When the State acquired the structure called the White House, it was locally famous for the battle that was fought there during the American Revolution and for the martyred patriots who were hanged from the staircase by the British Colonel, Thomas Brown. In 1811 Capt. Hugh McCall remembered the battle site in this way: "Mackay's Trading House, denominated the White House, one mile and a half west of the town." This description sums up two parts of the site's interpretation: (1)"Mackay's Trading House,": a museum of Augusta's 18th century Indian trade: traders with West Indian, Carolinian, and Rhode Island connections. (2)"The White House,": a Revolutionary shrine, where twenty-nine American patriots were taken prisoner - thirteen hanged in the stairwell and sixteen burned by the Indians. The other major significance which the Commission interprets is detailed on the facing page: distinquished, though decidely masculine, architecture. Thomas G. Little who planned and supervised the restoration before his death, said the house is "the finest example of Colonial frame residential architecture south of the Potomac," and recommended taking it back to 1760-'80. On the first floor are 18th century furnishings compatible with the architecture; on the second. exhibits about the South during the Revolution; and on the third, exhibits of the Pre-Revolutionary Indian trade. Important personages and dates are: (1)Thomas Red, a Virginia planter, Sept.,1757, receives a 500 acre grant on which the house stands. (2) John Francis Williams, a native of Barbadoes comes to Augusta by way of Charleston, S.C. 1761, purchases the property from Red. The house, a Carolina Coastal type with West Indian influence may have been built by Williams. He trades with the Indians. (3)Robert Mackay,1768, goes into business with Williams (partnership dissolved,1770). The house becomes "Mackay's Trading House." Mackay, a Scot, is an experienced trader by way of business in Jamaica, Charleston and Beaufort, S.C./ Did Mackay have a hand in building the house? 7 (4) Mary Malbone Chilcott of Newport, R.I., 1769-1771. Mrs. Chilcott. daughter of shipping magnate Godfrey Malbone and aunt of mina turist Edward Green Malbone, comes with her daughter to Augusta. Williams, 1769, and Mary Chilcott (5) The Revolutionary Battle, 1780. The daughter marries John F. marries Robert Mackay, 1771.

Date

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED 10- 28-69

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PAGE 1

CONTINUATION SHEET

AMENDMENT TO THE MACKAY HOUSE

Extensive research has recently been completed which has shed new light on the history and architecture of the "Mackay House", Augusta, Richmond County, Georgia.

According to the historical research, the house was built circa 1797 by Ezekiel Harris. It stands on what had been the "White House Tract" which was the site of the Revolutionary battle, the 1st Siege of Augusta. The "Mackay House" or "White House", where the battle and the subsequent hangings actually took place, is no longer standing. The present structure was the first house built in the village of Harrisburg (near Augusta) and was the residence of the founder of Harrisburg, Ezekiel Harris, from 1797 until 1800. It was then owned by the Pearson-Walker family from 1809 until 1873. It will hereafter be known as the "Harris-Pearson-Walker House" and your records should be changed accordingly.

The Director of Architectural Research for Colonial Williamsburg, Mr. Paul Buchanan, completed an on-site study of the house and prepared a written report for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. He concluded that the house was built in 1800 plus or minus five years. He found the house to be extremely valuable architecturally and recommended that the house be preserved on its architectural merits.

Bibliographical References

Norwood, Martha F., A History of the White House Tract, Richmond County, Georgia, 1756-1975, Prepared for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Section, Atlanta, August, 1975.

Buchanan, Paul, Architectural Investigation of the Mackay House - Augusta, Georgia, Prepared for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Section by the Director of Architectural Research for Williamsburg, August, 1975.

Prepared by: Martha F. Norwood

David M. Sherman

State Historic Preservation Officer

9-3-75

Date

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
Georgia	
COUNTY	
Richmond	
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(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

MACKAY HOUSE

Boundary Clarification:

When the National Register nomination for MacKay House, located on Broad Street in Augusta, was first submitted, the boundaries were not clearly defined. The enclosed map defines the nominated area of approximately two (2) acres, including most of the block bounded by Broad Street, Pearl Avenue, Welch Lane, and Eve Street.

Elizabeth Z. Macgregor Architectural Historian Historic Preservation Section Department of Natural Resources 270 Washington Street, S.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30334

September 24, 1974

Name

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date September 27, 1974

GPO 921-724



