

PH000 2551

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia
COUNTY: Bibb
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE AUG 14 1973

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Riverside Clinic

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Ambrose Baber House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
577-587 Walnut Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Macon

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
8th - Williamson S. Stuckey

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Bibb CODE: 021

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Hospital</u>

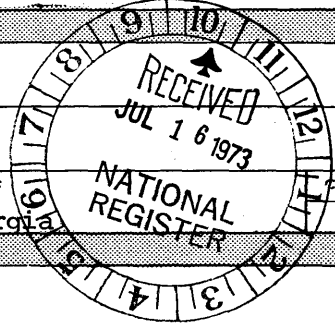
**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Clinic Hospital Corporation

STREET AND NUMBER:  
577-587 Walnut Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Macon

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13



**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Bibb County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Macon

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: 1. The Historic Architecture of Macon by Carl Feiss and Russell Wright

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Middle Georgia Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Macon Coliseum

CITY OR TOWN:  
Macon

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

2. Historical Survey by Middle Georgia Historical Society  
1970 Local

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Designed in an early Republic style, the Ambrose Baber House was built in 1829-1830 on the outskirts of Macon. With the main house was also planned an office for Dr. Baber and exotic landscaping.

The Ambrose Baber House, presently known as Riverside Clinic, is a five bay, two story plus raised basement brick house that has been stuccoed and scored to resemble stone. The simple, lintel gauged, shuttered windows are six-over-six. A pedimented area of the three central bay protrudes a few inches. The cornice has an original delicate Greek key design.

When converted for hospital purposes in 1929, the original open arm horseshoe steps were replaced by a small stoop with slender columns and pediment. The present fan-lighted doorway is a replacement of the original one. Part of the original iron step railing and fencing with anthemium at the top and a Greek key motif at the bottom are now used at the front entrance and along the added left wing. In general, the fine exterior proportions of the Baber House have not been disturbed even with the 1920-30's wing additions.

The main interior feature is the stairway with skylight. Just inside the front entrance, the stairs to the basement floor and to the main floor have been retained. Circular steps around a skylight from the second to the third floor have been replaced but circular steps from the third floor to the skylight itself have been retained. Also many of the cross and bible type doors and molded frames and lintels have been utilized and the inside panels at the base of many windows are as they were originally.

There were four large rooms with a wide hall on both of the main floors. The lower floor walls were draped in velvet. The circular stairway from the first floor to the roof as well as the mantels were made of solid mahogany that was brought from Philadelphia.

The kitchen of the original house had an enormous open fireplace and a brick oven for baking. The basement paved with stone consisted of four large rooms, wide hall open in rear, a wine cellar under the front end of the hall and under the front porch.

The grounds enclosed by a ten-foot brick wall, were divided into unusual terraces that consisted of boxwood borders, cedar, magnolia, wild olive and mimosa trees.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input 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) **1829 - 30**

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) <u>Historic</u> |
| <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            |   |  | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ambrose Baber House or Riverside Clinic is one of Macon's oldest and most interesting houses, and as described on the facing page, has outstanding architectural features. Its owners, Dr. Ambrose Baber, Col. J. B. Lamar, Gen. Howell Cobb, and others have much to offer in the way of historical significance.

The most distinguished resident of this house was its builder, Dr. Ambrose Baber. He was born in Buckingham County, Virginia; educated at White Hall Institute in Virginia; had medical training under Dr. Nelson in Norfolk, Virginia; served in medical section of U. S. Army during War of 1812; attended Medical College of Philadelphia from 1815-17 and served in hospitals of that city; served as surgeon during Seminole War under General Andrew Jackson.

He returned to medical practice after close of that war and in 1825 was appointed to the Board of Examiners for Medical Department of University of Georgia and that same year welcomed General LaFayette to Macon. He was elected to the Georgia Senate in 1827, 1831 and 1838. He was the first president of the Macon Lyceum and Library Society in 1836. In 1841, Dr. Baber was appointed charge d' affaires to Sardinia by President Tyler. He returned to Macon in 1844 and devoted his time to sciences, literature and politics. He had previously, on his settling in Macon, helped found Christ Episcopal Church (Macon's first church, now on the National Register). In 1831 he was a member of the committee on public education and free schools. Dr. Baber was instrumental in setting aside the forest below Seventh Street for what is now Central City Park (the old bandstand there is on the National Register).

Dr. Baber occupied the Baber House until 1841, soon after which it was bought by Col. John Basil Lamar of Lamar's infantry, a prominent Maconite, signer of Georgia's Secession Ordinance, and a gallant officer in the Confederate Army. Upon his death in 1862 in the battle of Crampton's Gap, the property was inherited by his sister, Mrs. Howell Cobb. Major General Howell Cobb was Commander of the Georgia Reserves and Militia. His headquarters were located in the Military Headquarters Building (listed on the National Register), and he was influential in holding to a minimum of unpleasant incidences in connection with the occupation of the city by Union forces under General James Wilson in 1865.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bibb County Courthouse records  
 Bush-Brown, HABS Report (1957)  
 Butler's History of Macon and Central Georgia (1875)  
 Gholson's History of Macon (1950)  
 Jones, Mary Callaway, Macon's Heritage in Architecture (1939)  
 McKay, John J., Jr., First draft of National Register Form on file at Georgia Historical Commission  
 Mitchell, William R., Jr., Consultant, Georgia Historical Commission

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

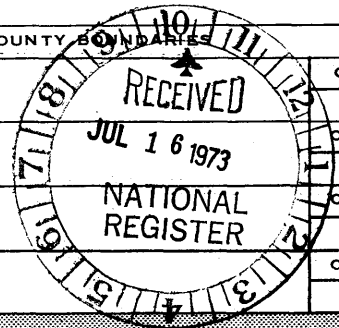
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		32° 50' 21"	83° 37' 36"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM:  
 17/254  
 3636  
 CX

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Elizabeth Z. Macgregor

ORGANIZATION: Georgia Historical Commission DATE: July 9, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
116 Mitchell Street

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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:

National  State  Local

Name Mary G. Jewett

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date July 11, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert K. Utley  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/14/73

ATTEST:  
W. J. Mitchell  
 Keeper of the National Register

Date 8 1 73

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Georgia	
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance

In 1874 the property was sold to Virginia Hopson and 1900 to the Guttenberger family who occupied the premises until remodeled as the Clinic Hospital. It is now operated as Riverside Clinic, a private Hospital.

