

PH0073342

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Florida
COUNTY:	Gadsden
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	DEC 27 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:  
A. D. Lester House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
John Lee McFarlin House *us of hms*

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
305 E. King Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Quincy

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Second

STATE: Florida CODE: 012 COUNTY: Gadsden CODE: 039

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<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 <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural  
 Commercial  
 Educational  
 Entertainment  
 Government  
 Industrial  
 Military  
 Museum  
 Park  
 Private Residence  
 Religious  
 Scientific  
 Transportation  
 Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Augustus Dixon Lester

STREET AND NUMBER:  
305 E. King Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Quincy

STATE: Florida CODE: 012

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Quincy

STATE: Florida CODE: 012

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
N/A

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

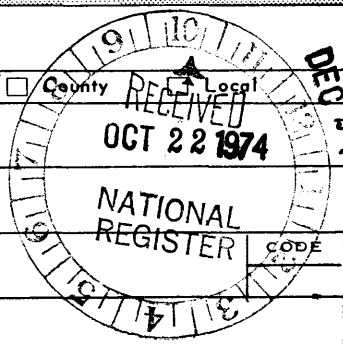
STATE: Florida

COUNTY: Gadsden

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John Lee McFarlin House is not an extreme example of left wing Queen Anne, but it is the most exuberant piece of Victoriana remaining in the Gadsden County area. Characterized by irregularity of plan and massing, and a variety of intersecting planes and details, the house is difficult to comprehend as a whole. It is two and one-half stories in height, of wood frame construction set up upon brick piers and sheathed with weatherboards of narrow width. The major portion of the plan is a large square submerged within a myriad of protruding, indented and extruded spaces; the central square of the plan is crowned by a steep hipped roof, but this too is obscured by multiple cross gables, dormers and subsidiary details. There are virtually no right angles on the exterior wall surface, however, its melange of curves and angles is tied together by a sweeping veranda at the first floor and an overhanging attic story with a deep cornice.

The house is situated on a corner lot with its main entrance to the north and secondary entries on both the east and west sides. The main facade is articulated as three bays: the two on the right capped by a large gable, and the one on the left occupied by a three-story octagonal turret. Entry is through the central bay and within the area of the veranda. The veranda is covered by a pent roof with architrave and deep cornice, and it curves to carry down the east and west sides of the house; a pitched-roofed porte-cochere with low pediments on three sides keys into the veranda on the east. Entrance to the porch is announced by a low pediment; the porch columns are paired and rest on low stuccoed piers, and like the other ornamental details of the house, are classical and small in scale. The main entrance has double doors with bevelled, leaded glass insets and transom; the two subsidiary entries are similar in treatment. The entrance door is flanked on the right by a semi-hexagonal bay with an angle window at its northwest corner and a curved plate glass window on the northeast; this same bay treatment extends upward to the second story. At the second story directly over the entry another bay window with eight openings is capped by an overhanging hood. The gable on the main facade has short cornice returns, a panelled band at its base, and is pierced by a stained glass Palladian window. The octagonal turret bulges from the northeast corner of the house; the bottom of its third story flares into a skirt that keys into the cornice of the main roof, and it is crowned by an octagonal bonnet with a brass pinnacle.

Both the east and west elevations are dominated by gables with broken pediments. The gable end on the west has a small portico projecting from its tympanum; this portico covers a balcony resting on the veranda roof. The south or rear elevation is a cacaphony of intersecting planes and spaces organized more for functional than visual purposes. Windows are of many

(con't.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Number all entries) 7. Description

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types and forms: single and double-hung sash, fixed and curving plate glass, fixed with ornamental sash, flat and arch topped, stained and clear glazed, and there even two oculi. Most of the windows have large plate glass glazing, but where small panes are used, they occur in the upper portions only and are of bevelled and leaded glass. Two interior brick chimneys with corbelled caps are visible above the main roof ridge.

Interior spaces all radiate from the entrance - stair hall of which the turret is an integral part. This area was intended to serve as an informal living hall quite apart from the formal parlor. It is equipped with a fireplace with elaborate surrounds, stained wall panelling, and numerous decorative devices in lacy, floral modes. Light filters in from the second and even the third floors by way of the turret, and several stained glass windows are visible from the living hall. All first floor rooms are panelled in dark-stained, heart pine: John McFarlin, the original owner of the house, is said to have spent three years selecting planks with curley grains for the panelling. The first floor ceilings are of pressed metal with embossed floral designs. While the exterior is in need of paint and some minor repairs, the interior is in original and excellent condition.



**3. 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) **c.1895**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

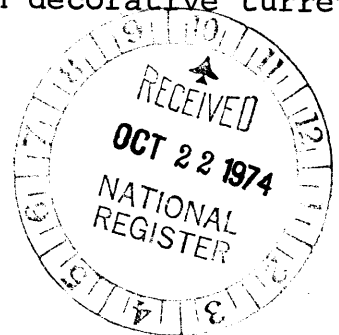
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

John Lee McFarlin (1864-1927) had this house built in either 1895 or 1896 at the height of his career as a prominent tobacco planter. Prior to the turn of the century, McFarlin operated as the second largest independent tobacco producer in the Georgia-Florida shade district; later he was engaged in several prominent partnerships (Taussig & Wedeles, Wedeles Brothers, McFarlin-Kraus). Although he did not originate the shade tobacco process, he was instrumental in its early development and experimentation. He is credited as the first to install sidewalls on shades and as the inventor of the combination slat and cloth shade--both factors in improving the quality and profitability of shade grown tobacco. In 1898, McFarlin and Alexander Shaw, the inventor of the shade process, made an unsuccessful attempt to patent the technique. Later, in 1910, McFarlin joined the American Sumatra Tobacco Company as an executive and large share holder.

John McFarlin was an important local personality, but his house has significance beyond its association with the man. Gadsden County enjoyed two periods of economic boom, both resulting from the production of cigar wrapper leaf tobacco. Several buildings from the earlier period (1850's) have survived; however, many of the large residences built during the later boom of the turn of the century have been destroyed. Compared to Queen Anne houses in other parts of the country, McFarlin's house may seem restrained, but in Gadsden County it is an extravaganza. It is a testament to a time when the function of a decorative turret was "to show that the owner could afford to build a home with decorative turrets."



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

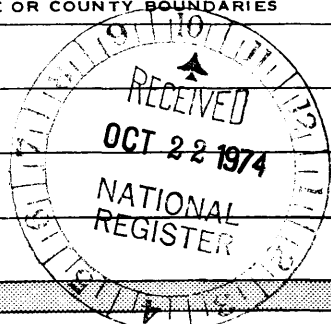
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	° ' "	° ' "		N30° 35' 26"	W84° 34' 22"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Little, J. Rodney, Historic Preservationist

ORGANIZATION: Div. of Archives, History & Records Management DATE: October, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Department of State, The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 012

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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 Robert Williams  
 Title State Historic Preservation Officer  
 Date October 14, 1974

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

[Signature]  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/27/74

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date DEC 26 1974

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 14 / 322750  
 3286570

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COUNTY Gadsden	
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(Number all entries) 9. Major Bibliographical References

Chapin, George M. Florida, 1513-1913: Past, Present and Future, II. Chicago: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1914, p. 137.

Gadsden County Courthouse, Quincy, Florida. Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Gadsden County Records. (Subgroup: deeds).

Lester, Mrs. Augustus Dixon. Personal Interview (by J. Rodney Little), October, 1973. Quincy, Florida. (Current owner of McFarlin House).

Love, Mrs. E. C. Personal Interview (by J. Rodney Little), January, 1974. Quincy, Florida. (Daughter of J. L. McFarlin).

Stanley, J. Randall. History of Gadsden County. Quincy: Gadsden County Historical Commission, 1948, pp. 153-61.

