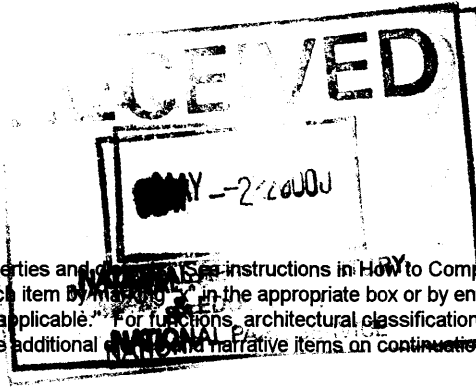


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional data and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name McGill, Dr. Robert E. House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 2704 Hill Street NA not for publication

city or town Alexandria NA vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Rapides code 079 zip code 71301

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Gerri Hobdy

4/27/00

Signature of certifying official/Title Gerri Hobdy, Date
Louisiana SHPO, Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the
National Register
See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the
National Register
- removed from the National
Register
- other (explain):

for
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Elson H. Beall 6-2-00

McGill, Dr. Robert E. House

Name of property

Rapides Parish, LA

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- X private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- x building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Table with columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total. Values: 3, 0.

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat. Domestic

Sub. Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat. Domestic

Sub. Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Weatherboard
roof Asphalt
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" next to the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

NA

(Mark "X" next to all that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1936

Significant Dates

1936

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Architect of Record: Charlie Robert (see Historical Note)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

NA

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

McGill, Dr. Robert E. House

Name of property

Rapides Parish, LA

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 15 551040 3462020

2

3

4

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date March 2000

street & number P.O. Box 44247 telephone (225) 342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Michael and Melissa Shelton

street & number 2704 Hill Street telephone (318) 448-4304

city or town Alexandria state LA zip code 71301

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

The Dr. Robert E. McGill House (1936) is a large two-and-one-half-story frame residence built in a distinctly southern version of the Colonial Revival style. Located on its original site in the Rapides Parish city of Alexandria, the home stands within a lushly landscaped fenced compound beside a small bayou within one of the city's residential neighborhoods. Despite some alteration, the home clearly retains the grand architectural character associated with what is termed by some as the Southern Colonial style.

Although the house is not antebellum in age, it was built to look like a plantation house of the colossal column type popular throughout the South. This sub-category of the Colonial Revival came in two forms – one featuring a colossal order gallery spanning the facade, the other distinguished by a colossal Palladian-like portico resembling a temple front. The McGill House is of the latter sub-type. Its portico features four colossal Tuscan columns and two similar pilasters, all of which display necking below their capitals. These vertical members support a full entablature which outlines the portico's front and sides. The entablature, in turn, is surmounted by a large pediment with a raking cornice. An oculus window pierces the pediment's tympanum.

Other Colonial Revival features found on the exterior include the fanlight above the main entrance, a simple cornice encircling the home's main block, a small rear porch composed of an entablature supported by four paired boxed columns and two similar pilasters, and a large two-level side porch whose appearance is also suggestive of a temple. It is composed of two identical levels of boxed columns, each supporting its own entablature. The upper entablature, in turn, supports a large pedimented gable with a raking cornice and an oculus-like vent. Unlike the columns of the front portico, the boxed columns of this double side porch are arranged in a somewhat unusual manner. Two boxed columns per level are paired on each end of the porch, with a third placed only a foot or so behind each corner vertical member. Two more boxed columns stand on each level at the middle. Although not specifically Colonial Revival features, cast iron balustrades outline both levels of the side porches. A similar balustrade outlines the portico, and a small decorative cast iron balcony is centered upon the window above the main entrance.

Colonial Revival features found on the interior include molded cornices, arched interior openings with wooden keystones (some are completely open, others are

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**Section 7 Page 2

paneled at the top), one Adam style mantel featuring sunburst motifs, a built-in bookcase (located to the right of the mantel) whose arched paneled top repeats the keystone motif, and a simple stair balustrade.

The first floor's plan is organized around front and back central hallways. A living room and library fill the space on one side of these halls; the first floor of the two-level side porch connects to these two rooms. A dining room, butler's pantry and kitchen occupy the other side of the first floor. A one story porch projects from the kitchen toward the rear of the property. The second floor contains four bedrooms (each with its own bath). Interestingly, the home has always had an elevator which rises from the first floor to the attic. Both the elevator and main stair rise from the front portion of the central hall.

Changes experienced by the house over the years include 1) the glazing of both levels of the double side porch, 2) the modernization of the kitchen and butler's pantry, 3) the enclosure with glass and brick of the single level porch adjoining the kitchen and the removal of the wall separating the two, 4) the piercing of the rear roof with skylights and conversion of the attic into an exercise room and office, 5) the replacement of the original rear doors with French doors featuring very large panes, 6) the conversion of one second floor bath into a utility room, and 7) the placement of a second built-in bookcase within the arched opening to the left of the mantel, thus closing the connection between the living room and library.

None of these alterations has seriously impacted the house's architectural character. In fact, the monumental facade can be said to be virtually intact. Thus, the Dr. Robert E. McGill House retains the overall grand white-columned look upon which its architectural significance is based and is a strong candidate for National Register listing.

Contributing Elements

Two contributing elements, both built at the same time as the house, stand on the McGill property. The first is a frame Colonial Revival playhouse, scaled appropriately for a young child. It is located in a side yard. The second is a large frame combination garage (first level) and apartment (second floor), located immediately to the rear of the house. A large covered terrace is attached to the rear of the garage.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 1

The Dr. Robert E. McGill House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is a landmark example of the Colonial Revival style within the Rapides Parish seat of Alexandria.

Created in 1805, Rapides is a large parish with extensive rural areas. Its economy is based primarily upon the growing of sugar cane and cotton and the harvesting of timber. The parish supports only two communities of any size -- Alexandria and Pineville. Located on the south bank of the Red River, Alexandria is the larger of the two, with a 1999 estimated population of 50,366. It was platted and named in 1805.

Despite the city's early establishment, few buildings remain from before the turn of the twentieth century. This assessment is confirmed by the Division of Historic Preservation's Historic Structures Survey of Rapides Parish, which was completed in the mid-1980s. This survey recorded 3,182 50+ year old buildings within the city, almost all of which date from the early twentieth century. The following facts, culled from the survey, detail the Colonial Revival's status within the city's architectural patrimony:

- 1) Although upon first glance the style seems well represented among the city's historic buildings, such an assessment is misleading. Most specimens are small, unassuming galleried cottages or boxy pyramidal roof houses which have only vestiges of the Colonial Revival in the form of one or two elements applied to their otherwise unstyled facades. In addition, there are relatively few two-story examples.
- 2) Of the total number of houses reflecting the Colonial Revival taste, twenty-two feature colossal columns. This number, however, is misleading because in some instances the columns are poorly proportioned and/or awkwardly spaced (i.e., they are less than consummate examples).
- 3) On only nine of the above mentioned houses do the colossal columns combine with pedimented gables to form temple-like porticoes. (As mentioned in Part 7, these porticoes are associated with the "Southern Plantation" subclass of the Colonial Revival style.)

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 2
9 1

Against this background, the McGill House shines as a landmark of Alexandria's Colonial Revival heritage. This status is based primarily upon the home's monumental temple-front portico, which reaches a level of grandeur found in only six other Colonial Revival homes in the city. (Three of these have pedimented porticoes and three have galleries across the facade.) The McGill House's grandeur results from the portico's size (a full two stories) and its classically correct articulation, which features four equally spaced round columns beneath a pedimented roof. Another factor contributing to the home's landmark status is its size. At two-and-one-half stories tall, the McGill House is one of the largest Colonial Revival mansions in the city.

Historical Note:

As mentioned above, the house was built in 1936 for Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. McGill. According to Mary McGill McClure, the couple's daughter, Dr. McGill drew plans for the home himself and only hired an architect to placate city officials who would not grant a building permit for plans lacking input from a practicing professional. Although the doctor's practice was fairly prosperous, the family felt it necessary to take in boarders to make ends meet; the couple continued this practice throughout their lives.

Dr. McGill was a native of North Carolina who attended medical school in Georgia before moving to Alexandria in 1926, where he practiced as a surgeon. After retiring from private practice, he served as staff surgeon at both the Veteran's Administration Hospital and Central State Hospital. He died in 1969, to be followed by Mrs. McGill in 1978. The home now belongs to Michael and Melissa Shelton.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Division of Historic Preservation. Standing Structures Survey of Rapides Parish, Louisiana.

Site Visit by National Register staff.

Telephone Interview by Michael A. Shelton with Mary McGill McClure, March 19, 2000; letter with pertinent information attached; copy in National Register file, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 1

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

A certain piece, parcel, lot of ground together with all rights ways and privileges thereto belonging, being, lying and situated in the Parish of Rapides, State of Louisiana and being a part of the Victor Michiels tract located on the west side of Bayou Robert on a street which is projection of Hill St. and containing the quantity of one acre and being more particularly described as follows to-wit:

Beginning on the north line of Hill St. at a point on the low bank of Bayou Robert marked by an iron stake, thence run along Hill Ave. in a westerly direction 241.90 ft. to a corner marked by an iron pipe; thence angle 90 degrees to the right and run 172.90 ft. to a corner on the line common to this vendor and Gustave Petrus; thence turn on an interior angle of 91 degrees 28 minutes and run easterly 226.25 ft. to a corner on low bank of Bayou Robert; thence turn on an interior angle 112 degrees 37 minutes and run down Bayou Robert 88.20 ft., thence angle 35 degrees 10 minutes right and run down said bayou 100 ft. to point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

Boundaries follow the property lines of the parcel of land historically associated with the house.