

PH0022870

Form 10-300
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

6th Congressional District

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| STATE: GEORGIA | |
| COUNTY: BIBB | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | JAN 20 1972 |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Findlay House (part of YWCA property)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Robert Findlay House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
785 Second Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Macon

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

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Public <input type="checkbox"/> | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> | Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> | Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | In Process <input type="checkbox"/> | Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> | Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Object <input type="checkbox"/> | Both <input type="checkbox"/> | Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> | Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> | Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No: <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> | Government <input type="checkbox"/> | Park <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> | Comments <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> | Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> | Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Military <input type="checkbox"/> | Religious <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> | Museum <input type="checkbox"/> | Scientific <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Young Women's Christian Association

STREET AND NUMBER:
785 Second 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:
Macon

CITY OR TOWN:
Macon

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than 1 acre**

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

STATE: **GEORGIA**
COUNTY: **BIBB**
ENTRY NUMBER: **JAN 20 1972**
DATE: **1972**
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house was once a fashionable ^{Pre-}Civil War residence typical of a "Villa in the Italian Style" probably adapted from a design appearing in a periodical or publication of the era such as A.J. Downing's "The Architecture of Country Houses" (D. Appleton 1850).

The use of the cast iron brackets is an interesting early use of cast iron in a Macon residence.

Good window details.

Vertical batten type external walls under porch roof.

Great cast iron patterns under front porch.

Ventilators directly under eaves, between cast iron brackets.

The house had panels of thistle glass framing doorway. Red glass with white etched design of leaves and thistles, made in Scotland. Some of original panels now in possession of Prentiss Findlay, great grandson of builder.

Further architectural details by Architects Committee - Robert C. Beeland, A.I.A. - Chairman.

Its exterior incorporates part basement, two floors and cupola with porch extending across the front and down each side of first floor. The porch columns are paneled and rest on cast iron plinth and have very heavy and well-proportioned capitals which blend perfectly with the overall scale of the house. The area below the porch is enclosed with stucco on brick scored to resemble stone and vented with large cast iron grilles which are all in place and in excellent condition. The exterior walls at back of porch are of wide 1-inch thick boards forming vertical panels. The windows at the porch extend to the floor also indicating a vertical effect. Cast iron brackets occur at porch column capitals and at second floor and cupola cornices. The story high corner embellishments at second floor and cupola are of wood and in good condition. Venting of the attic space is accomplished by small vents in freeze between brackets on second floor.

The interior of the house is in excellent condition. First and second floors are of 5-inch wide pine boards. Door and window trim on the first floor is massive with very elegant profile and rise from plinths of same profile. The downstairs cornice is in perfect condition of plaster in organic design. It is very ornate and varies in design from entrance foyer to living room and parlor, with original gas lights (wired for electric) in living room and parlor. The mantles in living room and parlor are fine carved white marble of similar but different design. All interior doors are mortise and tenoned with pegged joints. The second floor is made up of a hall, three large and two small bedrooms. The trim on this floor is much lighter in character than the first floor with no outstanding details.

The dining room and parlor become one space when massive pocket doors are opened between them.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1856**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Industry <input type="checkbox"/> | Science <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Architecture</u> |
| Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> | Invention <input type="checkbox"/> | Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Art <input type="checkbox"/> | Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> | Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> | Military <input type="checkbox"/> | | _____ |
| | Music <input type="checkbox"/> | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

This house was built in 1856 by Robert Findlay, a native of Scotland who had come to Macon in 1836 in charge of steam machinery for the Monroe Railroad. He was the Master Machinist who engineered the locomotive "Ocmulgee" on its first run from Macon to Forsyth in 1838.

After that run, Findlay started a little shop for castings which expanded into a large business, of which he was the founder in Middle Georgia, with the most extensive buildings for that purpose in the State. The State Farmers Market is now located on the site of Findlay's Iron and Brass Foundry which was converted into a munitions plant during the War Between the States.

Findlay was "a man of much public spirit, intelligence, and usefulness," serving as a member of City Council, chief of the Fire Department, and a leading member of the Baptist Church.

The Findlays reared five sons in this house: James N.; Robert B.; Charles S.; George W.; and Christopher D., Major of Findlay's Battalion, and later, Lieutenant Colonel of the 5th Georgia Reserves. Christopher D. Findlay commanded the 5th Georgia Reserves during Stoneman's raid on Macon in 1864. He also was a member of, and a generous subscriber to, the Napier Artillery.

The house is now owned by the Young Women's Christian Association and is next door to their modern facilities building. The old home was used for a while as a dormitory for working girls and is now used for club meeting rooms.

One of the few outstanding ante-bellum homes of distinction remaining in this section of the city, which is near the multi-million dollar hospital and is now largely commercial and doctors offices.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Butler, John C. History of Macon and Central Georgia. Macon, Georgia, 1879.
 Jones, Mary Callaway. Macon's Heritage in Architecture. Macon, Georgia, 1939, revised 1957.
 Young, Gholson & Hargrove. The History of Macon, Georgia 1823-1949. Macon, Georgia 1950.

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 ONE ACRE | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|----|--|-----------|---------|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds |
| NW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 32 | 49 | 56 |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 83 | 38 | 2 |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mr. John J. McKay, Jr., President

ORGANIZATION: **Middle Georgia Historical Society, Inc.** DATE: **March, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:
c/o Macon Coliseum

CITY OR TOWN: **Macon** 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 Gregory Jewett
 Title State Liaison Officer
 Date April 19, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest A. Connelly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
JAN 20 1972

Date _____

ATTEST:
W. Bradford
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date January 14, 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| STATE | |
| GEORGIA | |
| COUNTY | |
| BIBB | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | JAN 20 1972 |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| COMMON: | Findlay House (part of YWCA property) |
| AND/OR HISTORIC: | Robert Findlay House |

2. LOCATION

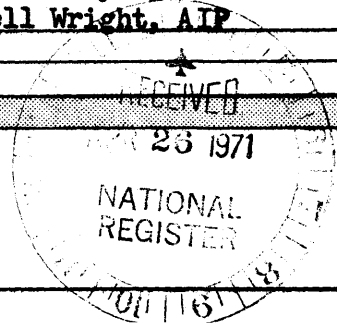
| | | | |
|--------------------|------|---------|------|
| STREET AND NUMBER: | | | |
| 785 Second Street | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: | | | |
| Macon | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| Georgia | 13 | Bibb | 021 |

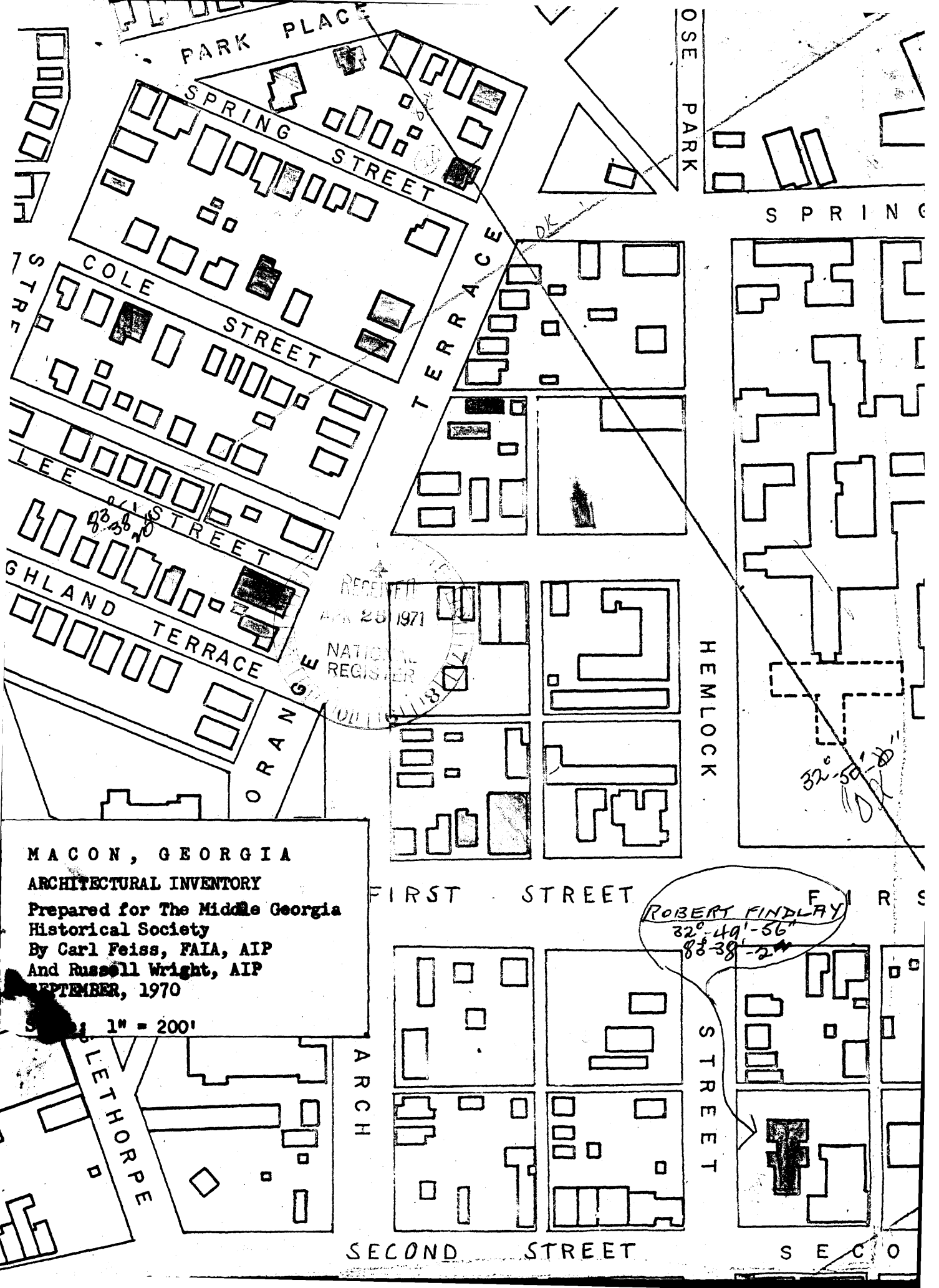
3. MAP REFERENCE

| | |
|---------|--|
| SOURCE: | Macon, Georgia Architectural Inventory by Carl Feiss, FAIA, AIP and Russell Wright, AIP |
| SCALE: | 1" = 200' |
| DATE: | September, 1970 |

4. REQUIREMENTS

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
 2. North arrow.
 3. Latitude and longitude reference.





MACON, GEORGIA
ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY
 Prepared for The Middle Georgia
 Historical Society
 By Carl Feiss, FAIA, AIP
 And Russell Wright, AIP
 SEPTEMBER, 1970

Scale: 1" = 200'

RECEIVED
 APR 25 1971
 NATIONAL
 REGISTER

ROBERT FINDLAY
 32'-49'-56"
 83'-38'-2"