Form 10-300 (July 1969)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Mercer

082 ESHH N 81 INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM FOR NPS USE ONLY EN TRY NUMBER DATE (Type all entries - complete applicable sections) 1973 FEB ·Μ DECEMP 1. NAME COMMON: JUN 15 1972 The Mansion House in Cadwalade MATIONA McCall House; Ellarslie REGIO 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: 171 Cadwalader Park, bounded by Parkside Drive, Staviosant Ave 4453580 CITY OR TOWN: Abernathy Drive 7 Trenton STATE COUNTY: CODE CODE New Jersey 34 021 Mercer 3. CLASSIFICATION ACCESSIBLE CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS (Check One) TO THE PUBLIC П Public Yes: District 🙀 Building Public Acquisition: Occupied 000 Restricted In Process ☐ Site ☐ Private ☐ Structure Unoccupied u **▼** Unrestricted Both ☐ Being Considered □ Object Preservation wor ☐ No in progress 730 PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) Agricultural Government Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments ☐ Industrial Other (Specify) □ Commercial Private Residence 5 17 ☐ Military ☐ Educational Religious 115117 200 ☐ Entertainment Museum Scientific OWNER OF PROPERTY . 1 OWNER'S NAME: New City of Trenton STREET AND NUMBER: Jersey City Hall CITY OR TOWN: CODE New Jersey Trenton 34 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Mercer Mercer County Courthouse STREET AND NUMBER: 209 South Broad St. CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE Trenton New Jersey 34 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE OF SURVEY: DATE OF SURVEY: Federal ☐ State County Local NUMBER DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: USE O STREET AND NUMBER: ONLY STATE: CITY OR TOWN:

. Desci	ription	T			(Check One)		
CONDITION	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	X Fair	☐ Deteriorated	Ruins 🖽	☐ Unexposed	
	(Check One)				(Check One)		
Ì		☐ Alter	ed	□ Unaltered		☐ Moved	C Original Site
			21111 (26 b-	DUVELS A	ADDEADANCE	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

The McCall House is an Italianate villa of irregular plan. The main portion of the house is two stories in height; the tower rises three stories. The house is set on an eminence in the midst of a rolling heavily wooded landscape that stretched to the feeder canal of the Delaware & Raritan Canal, at the foot of the hill. Although other structures and facilities -- playgrounds, restrooms, a small zoo, etc. -- have intruded upon the grounds since they have been used as a public park, the contours and major plantings of a mid-nineteenth century planned, romantic landscape survive.

The house was built of brick, roughcast with stucco scored to simulate stone, and originally painted a warm, rosy beige. The original finish has since been cemented over; the cement is also scored, and presently is painted cream color. The building's ornament is quite plain. A broad, flat, masonry belt course marks the division between the two stories. Similar flat bands frame the windows, the belt course forming the lower part of the frame of the second story windows. There is a gap of about a foot between the window-sill and the belt course, giving the effect of a recessed panel. The windows of the lower floor are treated in similar fashion, although the bottom course is not continuous. Although there is some variation in window size and type, most of the windows of the lower floor are casement, with a two-light transom, and two lights in each lower section. The second floor windows are double-hung, four-over -four sash. There is an arched window on the stair landing, and a triple row of arched windows on each side of the third floor of the tower.

Although this was a country house and evidently always rather simple, the exterior trim was once far richer. The house faces the Delaware River to the south. This south front has a projecting square bay as an entrance; originally there was a typical Italianate balcony over the door. A roofed cast iron veranda reached towards the west from this entrance bay; it continued around the projecting semi-hexagonal bay at the southwest corner of the house. The north front was originally the main entrance to the house. It still retains a broad, arched doorway, framed with a band of masonry. Originally there was a substantial wooden portecochere, pierced on three sides by arches like that of the entrance door. All the windows were provided with "exterior Venetian blinds", that is louvered wooded shutters with thin, movable slats. All this exterior trim was removed in the course of a WPA project in 1935-6.

The house is roofed with metal. The rooflines are rather flattish, as is usual in the Italianate style. Originally the roofline was given added variety by the arrangement of clustered chimnies. These have since been reduced in height and encased in concrete.

The interior plan is most clearly revealed in the basement, where the structure is supported on a series of brick vaults and arches. There were five principal rooms, plus a hall, on each floor. The stair rose in the tower, while the servants' rooms and kitchen were relegated to a lower two-story wing to the east. On the first floor the partitions between four of the principal rooms have been removed. Plywood ceilings

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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	e and Known) 1845/6		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	☐ Education	☐ Political	Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	■ Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specity)
Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	Science	
Architecture	Landscape Landscape Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
☐ Commerce	Literature	itarian	
☐ Communications	Militory	Theater	
☐ Conservation	Music	☐ Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mansion House in Cadwalader Park is a prime example of an increasingly rare, although once important, Victorian domestic building type, the Italianate villa. It is, now that Riverside at Burlington has been demolished, probably the earliest surviving example in New Jersey designed by the architect who introduced the Italianate villa to America, John Notman. Although it has lost a good deal of superficial ornament, its basic forms have not been tampered with. It retains the ample proportions, free plan, and generous interior spaces that characterize Notman's work.

Furthermore, it retains the major portion of the landscape which was an integral part of Notman's planning for such suburban or country villas.

The house was built in 1845 or 1846 for Henry McCall, a wealthy Philadelphian with business interests in Trenton, mainly as a summer home. At the time, Notman was working in Trenton as architect for an enlargement of the New Jersey State House, and on several projects in Princeton. His own pride in the house is shown in his use of it as a demonstration site when he was called on to design a house for John and Sarah Stockton of Princeton. The house was sold to the Park Commission of the City of Trenton in 1898.



Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) (1)

STATE	;
	New Jersey
COUNT	ry
	Mercer
	FOR NPS USE ONLY
	ENTRY NUMBER 1012 DATE

(Number all entries)

McCall House; Ellarslie New Jersey Code: 3h Mercer Co. Code: 021

Section 7. (Continued) have been inserted throughout the house, so that it is impossible to determine whether any original plaster trim remains. The only remarkable surviving interior decorative feature, therefore, is the gracefully curving staircase, with its heavy wooden rail and cast iron balusters.

Section 9. (Continued)
Trenton Sunday Times, January 11, 1953. Article by Harry J. Podmore

Congressional Representation

Frank Thompson, Jr., Congressman (4th District) Clifford P. Case, U. S. Senator Harrison A. Williams, U. S. Senator

