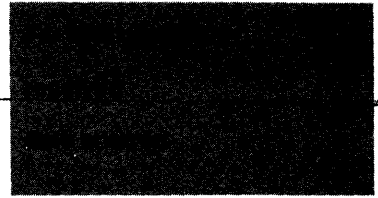


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



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7. S-161:

Property Name: EGGLINTON HALL

Location & Verbal Boundary Description:

Egglinton Hall is located at 700 S. E. Second Street on a lot bounded by S. E. Second Street, by Fisher Street, by S. E. Third Street, and by an occupied house lot; the lot contains 1.09 acres.

Owners:

Michael R. and Jean C. Chodkowski  
700 S. E. Second Street, Milford, DE (obtained 12/9/81 at Sussex County Board of Assessments).

Property Description:

Egglinton Hall is a 2-story, 5-bay, center-hall-plan, frame house with a 1-story rear wing. The gable roof is pierced with three regularly-spaced dormers and by interior gable-end chimneys. It has a plain box cornice with partial returns. The windows are six-over-six sash. The center section has a 2-story portico with paired, thin Doric columns. The rear wing - actually the original house - has a gable roof with dormers and two massive chimneys, one in the interior gable end and one in the interior block.

Historical Background:

The original house, now contained in the wing, was built c. 1790 by Henry Egglinton. At this time, it was a 1-story, one-room-plan house. In 1805, William Black built additional rooms to this and in 1828 the house and property were acquired by Truston P. McColley. It is he who added the main 5-bay section to the front of the house.

Property Significance:

Egglinton Hall is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under two different criteria. The first is Criterion B for the association of the dwelling with Reverend Truston P. McColley. The second is Criterion C, based on its architectural features. Particularly, the 2-story Greek Revival porch on the facade.

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EGGLINTON HALL CONTINUED

Reverend Truston P. McColley was an important person in lower Delaware in the areas of politics, religion and business, and Egglinton Hall was his home for almost fifty years. He acquired the property in 1828 and lived there until his death in 1876. He was originally trained as a hatter but early in his career he embraced Methodism and became a leading preacher in lower Delaware. He was responsible for a number of churches in the area and was often in demand as an orator and preacher. A good deal of his church work was done at his home. Local tradition states that Reverend McColley performed many weddings at Egglinton Hall. Preserved in the Delaware State Archives is the register book used by Reverend McColley to record the weddings he conducted at his home.

In addition to his religious work, McColley was also an enterprising businessman. Both Byle's 1859 Atlas and Beer's 1868 Atlas indicate that he was a very large property owner both in the town of Milford and in Sussex County. As a farmer, he was one of the first to begin laying out commercial peach orchards in this part of Delaware. His early efforts, along with others, helped bring this cash crop to lower Delaware. This particular crop was of unprecedented importance to the region. The profits from the industry helped transform South Milford from farmland in the early nineteenth-century, to a settled stable community by the mid-to-late nineteenth-century. Reverend McColley's strong interest in agriculture and in improving the condition of agriculture in the region led him to help found the Delaware State Agricultural Society in 1849. He was elected vice-president at the first meeting. McColley also helped organize the Junction and Breakwater Railroad. This branch line connected Milford with the main north/south line at Harrington. The line was eventually extended to Georgetown and then to Lewes. McColley served as a member of the Board of Directors of the railroad.

A third area of endeavor for McColley was politics. He was active in Democratic Party affairs and, in 1852, was sent to Dover as a delegate for Sussex County to the State Constitutional Convention. He was elected President of the Convention and served in that position throughout the gathering.

Egglinton Hall is architecturally significant. It began as an example of a Chesapeake Bay vernacular building. As a 1½-story dwelling built in the late eighteenth-century; it is near the northern limit for the range of this type of building. Field survey indicates that the Mispillion River is near the north extent, with Milford Hundred being the true limit of the Chesapeake Bay building traditions.

The most significant architectural feature of the house is found on the addition that Reverend McColley made after he purchased the farm in 1828. The 2-story main block was added to the north side of the original house which was converted into service areas. The interior of the new section is modest in presentation. However, Reverend McColley had a 2-story portico added to the front of the house. The structure is supported by Doric columns. At the second floor level a door, similar to that on the first floor, was added to allow access to the porch. This feature is most unusual in lower Delaware and represented an attempt on McColley's part to improve his dwelling by the use of an element of the Greek Revival vocabulary, then very fashionable in new building construction in Milford and elsewhere.



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