

PH0023311

3rd Congressional District

Jack Brinkley

Form 10-300  
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: GEORGIA	
COUNTY: Muscogee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 16 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**THE RANKIN HOUSE**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**The Rankin House**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1440 Second Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Columbus,**

STATE <b>Georgia</b>	CODE <b>13</b>	COUNTY: <b>Muscogee</b>	CODE <b>215</b>
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:  
**Historic Columbus Foundation, Inc.**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**P. O. Box 5312**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Columbus**

STATE: <b>Georgia</b>	CODE <b>31906</b>
	<b>13</b>

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Deed Book - Muscogee County Court House**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Court House Square**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Columbus,**

STATE: <b>Georgia</b>	CODE <b>13</b>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1/4 of an acre**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE:  
**Historic American Building Survey, 1936 \*  
Historic Columbus Building Inventory**

DATE OF SURVEY: **6-1-67** Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Columbus Museum; Building Inspector's Office; Columbus-Muscogee County Planning Commission Office; Historic Columbus Foundation, Inc.**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**716 Broadway**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Columbus,**

STATE: <b>Georgia</b>	CODE <b>31901</b>
	<b>13</b>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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\* Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (08)

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>		
				Moved <input type="checkbox"/>		
				Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Rankin House was built and first owned by James Rankin, a planter and owner of the local Rankin Hotel and Rankin Realty Company, who moved to Columbus from Scotland. Construction was started prior to the War Between the States, but was not completed until the War ended. The architect was Lawrence Wimberly Wall; the architect for the restoration was Edward W. Neal.

The house is late Georgian in style with Greek Revival details. The exterior and interior also include Italian Villa influences.

The exterior of the house is of repressed or dried brick. There is very little mortar between each brick (the mortar contained sugar). The walls supporting the roof and dividing each room are one foot thick. The house is noted for its iron grillwork on the lower veranda and its flying balcony. "Bird in the Basket" patterned grillwork decorates the upper portion of the veranda. The carved doorway is framed with columns on each side.

There are wide floor boards and window sills, hand carved cornices and door frames - all of which are original. The outstanding architectural feature of the house is a magnificent solid walnut double stairway that runs up to a landing from both sides of an ample center hall. Niches flank the entrance hall and staircase. Seven pair of the original silver door knobs remain.

The north and south parlors are both 18.6' x 19.6" with the dining room and music room measuring 18x20'. The entrance hall is 11.10' x 18.8' and the rear hall, from which the staircase ascends, is 16 x 20'.

The marble mantels in the north parlor and the dining room are original to the house. The mantel in the south parlor and the one in the music room came from a New York Brownstone, which was being demolished.

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) c. 1860

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>History</u>
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Architecture</u>
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.)

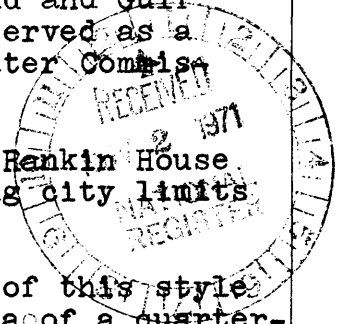
James A. Rankin came to Columbus from Ayrshire in Scotland. He was married to Agnes Affleck on January 2, 1839, whose family had moved to Columbus from Haddenton, Scotland. The potential prosperity of Columbus was attracting settlers from far and near. Mr. Rankin acquired the present Rankin House property in 1860 for \$6,000.00.

At the end of the hostilities Mr. Rankin was discouraged over the situation in Columbus as well as elsewhere in the South. Turning his new home over temporarily to his eldest child, Mrs. Emma Jane Rankin Lockhart and her husband, he left for Scotland with his wife and other children. His three sons, Edwin James Rankin, John A. Rankin, and William Rankin entered the University of Edinburg, where they remained for six years, after which the two former became prominent business men in Columbus. Edwin Rankin was a Director of the Georgia Midland and Gulf Railroad and the Swift Spinning Mills. He also served as a County Commissioner as well as on the Board of Water Commissioners.

According to a newspaper article in 1898, the Rankin House was considered the finest home within the existing city limits of Columbus; it was valued at \$18,500.00.

The Rankin House is the only existing example of this style of architecture remaining in the metropolitan area of a quarter-million people. It is similar in detail to houses of the same period in Natchez and New Orleans. It is situated in an area formerly called "high uptown." Much of the area has now been encroached upon by business. The Peabody-Warner House directly across the street was accepted for the National Register on December 30, 1970. The house directly to the South of the Rankin House is soon to be submitted for consideration for inclusion in the National Register. Together these three houses are the only remaining vestige of affluence formerly prominent in this area. According to a recently passed Columbus zoning ordinance, any house accepted by the National Register will be given a "Landmark Status" locally. This means that all alterations, improvements, partial demolitions, et cetra, will be subject to review by the local Board of Historic and Architectural Review. (continued...)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic American Buildings Survey, 1936  
 Worsley, Etta Blanchard, Columbus on the Chattahoochee, pp 193, 373  
 Columbus Enquirer, Sunday, February 19, 1898  
 Sunday Ledger-Enquirer, Dec. 14, 1964  
 Sunday Ledger-Enquirer, Mar 9, 1969  
 Sunday Ledger-Enquirer, July 13, 1969  
 The Enquirer, Nov 30, 1969  
 Sunday Ledger-Enquirer, Dec 7, 1969  
 Sunday Ledger-Enquirer, Dec 14, 1969  
 Sunday Ledger-Enquirer, Jan 4, 1970  
 Sun Led-Eng Feb 1, 1970  
 Enquirer, Feb 7, 1970  
 Sun Led-Eng Feb 15, 1970  
 Sun Led-Eng May 24, 1970  
 The Ledger May 27, 1970  
 Sun Led-Eng Sept 13, '70

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		32°	28'	24" N
NE	° ' "	° ' "		84°	59'	28" W
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Mrs. James J. W. Biggers, Jr., Executive Vice President**

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Columbus Foundation, Inc.**      DATE: **October 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**716 Broadway**

CITY OR TOWN: **Columbus**      STATE: **Georgia 31901**      CODE: **13**

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:

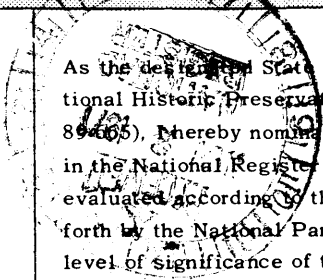
National  State  Local

Name Mary Gregory Jewett  
 Title State Liaison Officer  
 Date Oct. 28, 1971

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

Ernest A. Connally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 MAR 16 1972

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 ATTEST:  
J. Bradford  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date February 8, 1972



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
GEORGIA	
COUNTY	
Muscogee	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAR 16 1972	

(Number all entries)

THE RANKIN HOUSE, Columbus, Georgia STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
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The Historic Columbus Foundation, Inc. acquired this property in 1969. The downstairs rooms have been restored as a historic house museum of the 1850-1870 period. All of the furnishings have been authenticated by the Curator of the Victorian Wing of the Brooklyn Museum. Several items originally used by the Rankin family are in the Museum rooms today including: an ornate gilt mantle mirror and matching cornice boards; a 14' walnut Victorian pier mirror with matching cornice boards; and a pair of alabaster urns.

The House was officially opened to the public in December, 1969. Two regular tours of the house are available each week. It may also be rented for social and civic gatherings. The upstairs rooms are occupied as the offices of the Junior League of Columbus, Georgia. Many social and economic groups in Columbus aided in the restoration. It is in reality "a community house."

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The Rankin House is a participant in a project entitled "Experiences in Living History" under the auspices of the Muscogee County School District. As such it is a teaching museum for students and teachers from Muscogee County and nine surrounding counties in Georgia.

