

PH0031771

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia
COUNTY: McDuffie
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE OCT 1 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Usry House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
211 Milledge Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Thomson

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
10 - Robert G. Stephens

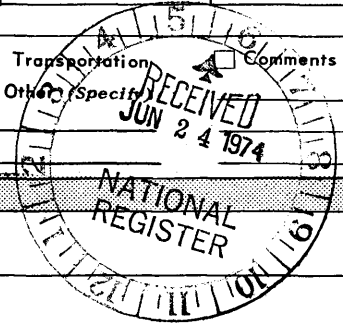
STATE: Georgia      CODE: 13      COUNTY: McDuffie      CODE: 189

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Jim C. Usry, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1623 Cripple Creek Drive

CITY OR TOWN:  
Birmingham

STATE:  
Alabama

CODE:  
01

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
McDuffie County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Thomson

STATE:  
Georgia

CODE:  
13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

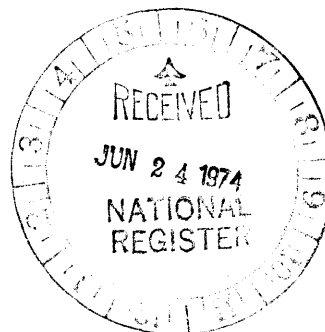
The Usry House represents a growing structure - one that evolved during the course of the first sixty years of the nineteenth century from a one or two room structure, into a plantation plain house, to its present style as a large porticoed structure that is exemplary of the mid-century transition of the classical style with early suggestions of Victorian style elements.

The exterior of the house consists of a slightly raised two story, lengthwise gabled end structure with its wide roof extending over the front facade, forming the portico, supported by square simple columns on panelled plinths. The hanging balcony's baluster railing and those of the main porch below, while not identical, are both of jigsaw scrollwork. The central portion of the house is five bays wide. A later, c.1930, two-story addition on the right adds one bay, extending on the interior the dining room and the corresponding bedroom upstairs. The first floor windows are nine-over-nine and second story windows are six-over-nine. The entrance design consists of a simple post and lintel wood frame. There are two stuccoed end exterior chimneys and two interior rear ones.

The interior, especially in plan shows the growth during the nineteenth century. Apparently the house was originally a one or two room cabin that grew into a plantation plain, two-story, two-room central hall structure with a later cottage, wide side porch, kitchen, office and porch additions on the rear. From the exterior, these rear additions appear as two separate cottages, probably mid 19th century kitchen and servants quarters that were attached to the main house during the later part of the 19th century. The mantels in the parlor and especially the dining rooms are early, with high shelves and delicately carved in a primitive diagonal bead pattern. Panelled wainscoting is found in the parlor and dining room; vertical panelled doors occur throughout the house; and beaded siding found in the hall and parlor also occurs elsewhere in the house but is now wallpapered. The stairs in the central hall are narrow quarter-turned with winders and simple turned balusters and newel post. Upstairs are 3 bedrooms and a bath. Originally there were only two rooms; the others being without fireplaces were either cut out of the existing space or added when the roof line changed.

Presently the Usry House is a prominent structure on a quiet close-to-downtown residential street.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                                        |                                       |                                                  |                                       |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Usry House, now in Thomson in McDuffie County, is an example of the way one family changed their home over the years to suit their needs. The house was probably built as a one or two room cabin with its first known occupant as William Usry in Warren County, long before there was a Thomson or even a McDuffie County. Over the years it grew into a plantation plain farm house and finally into a large two-story mid-19th century house. These changes reflect not only the changes in the family but the certain changes in architectural styles during the nineteenth century.

Evidences of these changes that occurred to the house's plan are found in such exterior details as the earlier, lower roof under the present eaves of the upstairs porch, the addition of the two-story porch during the 1860's, and the building out of the back of the second floor evidenced by the addition of a window that is smaller than those of earlier portions of the house. In the interior, the changes in the direction of the floor boards, the width of these boards, and the curious line in a wall of the back portion of the parlor seem to indicate the growth of the house during the nineteenth century. Although this house is, by local tradition, to have been begun before the Revolutionary War, the earliest reference to it concerns the birth there of Francis Marion Usry in 1826.

The Usrys were supposed to have come into Warren County from Virginia with the earliest settlers shortly after the Revolution; however, William Usry first appears in the 1805 Warren County Tax Digest. The families of William Usry, John Usry, his son, and Francis Usry, his grandson, among others appear constantly on the Warren County censuses from 1820 to 1870 when McDuffie County was formed. According to the Warren County Deed Books for the period from 1810 to 1820 and the Georgia Headright Grants for 1820, William Usry owned a great deal of land in the county along Little Briar Creek. The inventory of the estate of John Usry, made on 14 November 1856, lists milling machinery and carpentry tools as well as farm equipment, livestock, and slaves. This inventory also mentions the names of people owing money for work done at an "upper mill". The lists made during this inventory suggest that John Usry ran either a grist mill or a saw mill and was a carpenter as well as a planter. The inventories of the estates of his son, Francis Marion Usry, Sr., and of his grandson, Francis Marion Usry, Jr., which were made in 1876 and 1895 also suggest that they operated sawmills or grist mills. Francis Marion Usry, Jr., was a member of a company that operated the Goodrich-Usry Railroad during the 1870's and 1880's to haul lumber from their sawmills on Little Briar Creek in the southern part of

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Levasseur, A., Lafayette in America or, Journal of a Voyage to the United States, Philadelphia: Carey and Lea, 1829, pp.66-7  
 Macgregor, Elizabeth, personal inspection of house and interview of owner, December 28, 1973.  
 Stevens, Carole, Staff Researcher of courthouse records now on file at Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources.

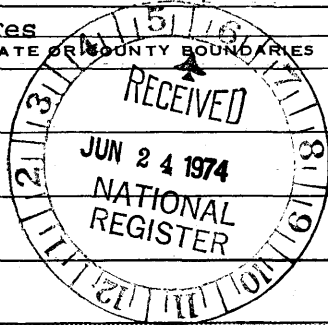
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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 TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		33 ° 27' 58 "	82° 30' 20 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.02 acres

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:  
Elizabeth Z. Macgregor, Architectural Historian; Carole Stevens, Staff Researcher

ORGANIZATION: Historic Preservation Section, Dept. Natural Resources      DATE: March 19, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
270 Washington Street, S.W., Room 703-C

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta      STATE: Georgia      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 Jurett

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date March 28, 1974

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

ARWortensen  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 18/1/74

ATTEST:

Charles O'Herny  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 7.20.74

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Georgia	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance

McDuffie County to Dearing seven miles away. The plans for this rail line were drawn up, according to local tradition, in the parlor of the Usry House. Francis Marion Usry, Jr., graduated from the Georgia Medical College in Augusta in 1876 and registered as a physician in McDuffie County in 1881. Like his father and grandfather, he too was a planter. During his time, and that of his father, the town of Thomson grew up around the Usry House which took on its present appearance. The Usry house that was probably originally built as a frontier one or two room cabin, slowly became a Plantation Plain farm house, and finally became the large two-story town-house of a successful mid-nineteenth century business man. The style of the house then as now is that of one in transition from the late Greek Revival to the early Victorian style, as noted by the columned portico trimmed in jigsaw scroll-work..

Today this house is owned by Mr. Jim C. Usry of Birmingham, Alabama who is a direct descendant of William Usry who began the house. The house no longer is situated on a plantation site as originally conceived, but is a prominent Thomson residence on a small lot on a quiet residential street.

