

PH0013161

10th Congressional District  
Robert G. Stephens, Jr.

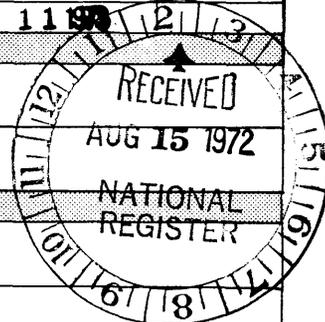
Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

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:	Richmond
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 11 1972	



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Brahe House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
456 Telfair Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Augusta

STATE: Georgia      CODE: 13      COUNTY: Richmond      CODE: 245

**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	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
The Augusta Museum

STREET AND NUMBER:  
540 Telfair Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Augusta

STATE: Georgia      CODE: 13

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Richmond County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Augusta

STATE: Georgia      CODE: 13

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic Augusta Building Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1966-67       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Historic Augusta, Incorporated

STREET AND NUMBER:  
506 Telfair Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Augusta

STATE: Georgia      CODE: 13

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Georgia

COUNTY: Richmond

ENTRY NUMBER: APR 11 1972

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 Brahe House, built in 1850 by Frederick Adolphus Brahe, is an example of the Sand Hills Cottage architecture in the Greek Revival style. It is this construction with the full English basement that makes the house a unique structure to this part of town. All other houses of this period in this area were of the more traditional townhouse construction.

The Brahe House is in good condition and, while slightly altered, is very close to the original structure as is described in the "Bill of Specifications of A House of F.A. Brahe" drawn up in March of 1850. He indicates that the house is to be a three story clapboard type cottage. The ground floor to be of "good brick, to be 4 fire places in basement, two with good modern stile mantelpieces. . . 4 rooms with a passage throu the centre. . . paved with brick and a good floor to be tonged and grooved of boards not exceeding seven inches wide. . . The boddy of the house to/c<sup>be</sup>covered with good Cyprus shingles. . . all the windows to have good Venetian shutters." An interior stairway is to lead to the second story which also is partitioned into 4 rooms, each with a fireplace, with a central hallway. This level is to include a front "portico." The attic story is to be structured of 2 rooms and a passage with another interior stairway fashioned with "good turned newell post." Dormer windows are required, 2 in the front and one in the rear of the house. In front of the residence is to be a "fence similar to the one in front of the residence of Mr. Jenkins." The plans end with specifications for servants' quarters in the rear, and "a pailed fence dividing yard from gardens with gate in centre, also a plain fence dividing gardens from cow yard with a large gate. The whole to be finished by the first of September, Eighteen Hundred and Fifty."

Exterior: The exterior differs from the original in only a few areas. Asbestos shingles have been added to protect against fire. Additions have been made to the rear of the house as it was enlarged.

The house measures 37 by 34 feet on the basement story. Four chimneys, flush with the outside wall, rise at the gable ends of the house, two at each end. The full English basement is constructed of solid brick walls laid in a common bond. Rising above the brick ground floor are two frame stories. The wooden stairway leading to the front portico and main entrance on the first floor is an exact copy of the original one damaged in the early 1900's. This portico is in the Greek Revival style. The classical doorways have side and transom lights. The entrance facade is perfectly symmetrical. The rear, originally symmetrical, is now altered with the addition of new rooms and enlargement of an existing one. All windows on the ground floor and first floor are six over six. The third story has two dormer windows in front and one in the rear.

Interior: On each of the main floors are four rooms with a passageway through the center. The attic story contains two rooms also divided by a passageway. The interior stairway to each floor is fashioned with turned newel posts. The original ground floor of brick and pitch was damaged during the last big flood and replaced in 1910 by wood. The other floors are original. The four rooms on the ground floor had eight foot ceilings

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Georgia	
COUNTY	Richmond	
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ENTRY NUMBER	APR 11 1973	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description

and served as dining room, kitchen, pantry, and wood room. The original mantels and fireplaces are still intact in all but one room.

The first floor has eleven foot ceilings with much of the original wallpaper still intact though darkened with age. The molding around the doors and windows is of the Greek Revival period. There are several interesting features on this floor. Especially to be noted is the papier mache ceiling, a technique said to have been learned in Vienna. Another interesting feature is the sliding pocket doors dividing the drawing room from the parlor. The carved marble mantel in the drawing room replaced the original and is of the Eastlake style. A third room extending behind the parlor was originally a small pantry on the back piazza but has since been enlarged twice and is now a museum of period memorabilia. The two rooms on the third story are also being used as a museum, one being restored as a nursery.

While the interior has been modified of necessity due to the changing requirements of the inhabitants and to allow some room for modern conveniences, the original gas chandeliers have been retained, though the house has the singular distinction of being the first in Augusta to have electric lights.



**8. 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) 1850

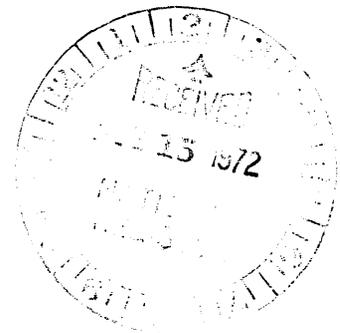
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <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) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | <u>History</u>                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | <u>Historic District</u>                            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | <u>Preservation</u>                                 |
| <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 Brahe House, built in 1850 by Frederick Adolphus Brahe, had remained in the same family until 1968 when it was deeded to the Augusta Museum. The great-granddaughter of the builder lives here and serves as hostess. F.A. Brahe came to Augusta from Albany, New York, prospering here as a silversmith and at one time holding the position of Official Tender of the City Clock. His son, Henry A. Brahe, continued the family business by then known as Brahe's Jewelers. The years following The War Between the States were lean for the Brahes as for many other Southerners and the business was finally sold in the early 1900's. Collectors, however, still consider Brahe silver a prized item. The wives of F. A. Brahe and H. A. Brahe were European, French and German respectively, and their tastes are reflected in many of the furnishings which include original oil paintings, statuettes, and lovely pieces of furniture. The Brahe House was the first in Augusta to be wired for electricity and the great-granddaughter, Mrs. Pauline W. Mathewson, recalls that quite a crowd turned out to see the illumination of the house that first night the power was turned on. The location of the home was once especially lovely, for it had a clear view ahead to the Savannah River and its shady green banks. It is hoped that with the eventual restoration of this house along with others on Telfair Street some of the aesthetic character of this earlier era can be regained and serve as a living page of history. The Brahe House today contains a small museum and is open to the public by special arrangement. When restored it will be opened to the public as a house-museum. The architectural significance is discussed on the facing page.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bell, Earl, Old Augusta's Oldest Houses, Augusta Magazine, Summer, 1966, Augusta, Ga.  
 Brahe Papers  
 Hill, Col. Raymond D., Executive Director, Historic Augusta, Inc., Augusta, Georgia. Submitted first draft of National Register form, on file at **GHC**.  
 Mitchell, William R. Personal Inspection, 1971.

**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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	33°	28'	09.876"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	81°	57'	37.800"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

UTM  
 17/410770  
 3703520  
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
William R. Mitchell, Jr., Director, Georgia Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION: Georgia Historical Commission DATE: July 7, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
116 Mitchell Street, SW

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 Jewett  
 Title State Liaison Officer  
 Date Aug 4, 1972

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

Robert M. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/11/73  
 ATTEST: [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date 4.3.73