

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

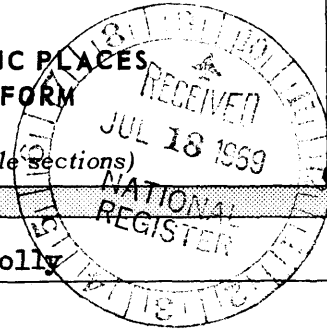
PH001:102

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
69-07-10-0003	7/29/69

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: **The Octagon House or May's Folly**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **527 First Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Columbus**

STATE: **Georgia** CODE: **10** COUNTY: **Muscogee** CODE: **215**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <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 type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: **Mr. F. Clason Kyle**

STREET AND NUMBER: **925 Blandford Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Columbus** STATE: **Georgia** CODE: **10**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Muscogee County Court House Deed Book 154 Page 355**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Court House Square**

CITY OR TOWN: **Columbus** STATE: **Georgia** CODE: **10**

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2/5 acre**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Historic Columbus Building Inventory**

DATE OF SURVEY: **June 1, 1967** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Columbus Museum of Arts & Crafts, Building Inspector's Office, Columbus & Muscogee County Planning Commission Office, Historic Columbus Foundation Headquarters**

CITY OR TOWN: **Columbus** STATE: **Georgia** CODE: **10**

STATE: Georgia
COUNTY: Muscogee
ENTRY NUMBER: 69-07-10-0003
DATE: 7/29/69
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input checked="" 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

Architectural Data

The total effect of the Octagon House is neo-gothic. The house was designed from the inside out rather than from the outside in, as were so many of the more graceful Greek Revival homes. The broken exterior planes and the irregular floorplan create fascinating illusions in the different degrees of light and shade. The year 1863 is the year most agreed upon as the date of Mr. May's octagonal addition. Originally, there was a gingerbread, gothic front porch with clustered colonettes and a cresting of iron on the porch and around the chimney. The arch over the front doors is of a type known as "pseudo-fourcentred". This type of arch was inspired by the Tudor or "four-centred" arch which was used in late Gothic vaults and, more conspicuously, in fan vaulting. The front doors are flanked and crested by leaded glass windows, the side lights measuring 1'2" x 4'6". May changed from clapboard to flatsiding under the porch to emphasize the double front doors and leaded glass windows.

The octagonal design was an afterthought, and for some twenty-seven years the house was a simple rectangular frame. This frame dwelling was built in 1829-1830, shortly after the original survey of Columbus. There are four original rooms with the kitchen in an outbuilding at the rear of the house. The two back rooms measure 11' x 14' and are joined by a center door. The original design of these two rooms has been altered to accommodate a kitchen and back porch. The front rooms are 11' x 16' with a large fireplace in each; these rooms do not have an adjoining doorway. In the south room there is a large leaded glass window 7'8" x 6' in the south wall. In the north wall of the other room there is a corresponding window, 4'5" x 6'. In each of these two front rooms there are exterior angles 5'4" across which contain smaller windows, 3'3" x 6'6". In front of these two rooms there is a small vestibule, 15'10" long, which has an outside door on the north side. The doorways which lead from the two front rooms into the vestibule are of different dimensions. The door into the south room measures 6'8" x 5'3" and is framed by a 10" molding; the doorway into the north room is 6'8" x 3'. The outside door is flanked and crested by 12" windows. Throughout the original part of the house there is a 6' high wood paneling which was added to the house by Mr. George Sheram, a past owner-occupant. He secured this paneling from Kirven's Department Store where he was employed.

All four rooms of the octagonal addition have the same dimensions, having been built around a central chimney. Mr. May converted the basic Greek Cross floor plan into an eight-sided shape by fitting triangular closets and vestibules into each arm of the cross. The rooms measure 15' 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 15' 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", with each room having two windows, 4'3" x 6'8", and a fireplace measuring 6'4" x 4'8". The windows have 6" moldings, and panels which cover the space between the sill and the floor. Between the two front parlors there is a large door, 7'3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide, which occupies the entire wall space. The short wall at the other side of the fireplace is only 6' 9". As in this wall, the doors throughout the rest of the octagon are 3' 10" x 7' 9". The wall opposite the fireplace is 15' 9" whereas the other two side walls are 10' 9". There is a discrepancy of a few inches in some of the wall measurements due to the fact that there are several places in this house where the walls are splayed. There are four angles

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

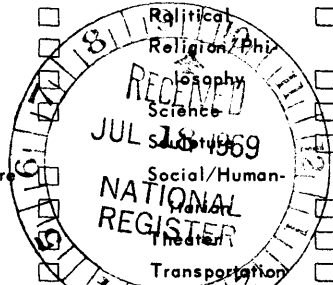
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> | Education <input type="checkbox"/> | Railroad <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> | Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Phil <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic <input type="checkbox"/> | Industry <input type="checkbox"/> | Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> | Invention <input type="checkbox"/> | Science <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Art <input type="checkbox"/> | Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Human <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> | Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> | National <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input type="checkbox"/> | Register <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> | Military <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Music <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> |



Urban Planning
 Other (Specify)
 This house is _____ in our
~~Historic District and~~
~~is to be included in~~
~~an urban renewal area.~~

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Historical Date

In April, 1831 Julia Forsyth, daughter of Governor John Forsyth, married Alfred Iverson, a Princeton graduate, who was practicing law in Columbus. The young couple came to live in the modest white house^{which} occupied lot 124. Alfred Iverson became one of Georgia's most distinguished citizens. He was a member of the Georgia Legislature for seven years and judge of the Superior Court for the Columbus circuit. In 1846 he was elected to Congress and in 1855 to the United States Senate. He was the first Southerner in the Senate to threaten secession. In January, 1861 Iverson withdrew from the Senate, when Georgia passed the ordinance of secession. He returned home to organize a regiment of the Confederate Army, and became its Colonel. He was commissioned Brigadier-General in 1862. Senator Iverson sold the house in 1857 to Mrs. Savanna G. Faber, and moved to Washington. Then on September 25, 1862, the house was sold to Mr. Leander May, trustee for Hannah P. May, by Mrs. Faber for a price of \$400. Mr. May was a cabinet maker and added the octagonal, four room addition in front of the original cottage. The house was then sold by Leander May to Mrs. Catherine Flynn May 11, 1865, for the sum of fifteen thousand dollars in Confederate treasury notes and the further price of \$500 in gold. The year 1863 is the one most often cited as the year May made his eccentric addition. Just after the Civil War, the house was owned by Mrs. Catherine Flynn, then sold to Michael Barschall (Fannie Barschall cut her name on a window pane in the dining room with a diamond ring). In 1875 the house was sold to Captain Thomas Jefferson Bates and in 1911 to George L. Sheram. ^{the} Historic Columbus Foundation, Inc. purchased the house from Freer Sheram King, granddaughter of George L. Sheram, on June 5, 1967. This was the first acquisition of the Foundation. The house is currently owned by Mr. Clason Kyle.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Deed Book 154 Page 355
 Lancaster, Clay, The Art Bulletin, "Architectural Follies in America",
 June, 1946.
 Worsley, Etta Blanchard, Columbus on the Chattahoochee.

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°	27'	21"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		84°	59'	37"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NO UTM
 CX

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Janice P. Biggers, Executive Vice-President, Historic Columbus Foundation,

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Columbus Foundation, Inc.** DATE: **June 1, 1969**

STREET AND NUMBER:
716 Broadway (P.O. Box 5312)

CITY OR TOWN: **Columbus** STATE: **Georgia** CODE: **10**

IN

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 July 11, 1969

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

Ernest Allen Cernally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date JUL 29 1969

ATTEST:
William J. Murtagh
 Keeper of The National Register

Date JUL 29 1969

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Georgia	
COUNTY	
Muscogee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69-07-10-0003	7/29/69

(Number all entries)

Architectural Data cont.

in the house, two of which were used for closets, and the other two for vestibules. The wall of the entrance vestibule which contains the double doors is ten feet wide with the door measuring 7' x 4". There is also an eleven inch closet at either side of the front door. The two walls opposite the front door are 6' 8" and contain doors which lead into the front parlors.

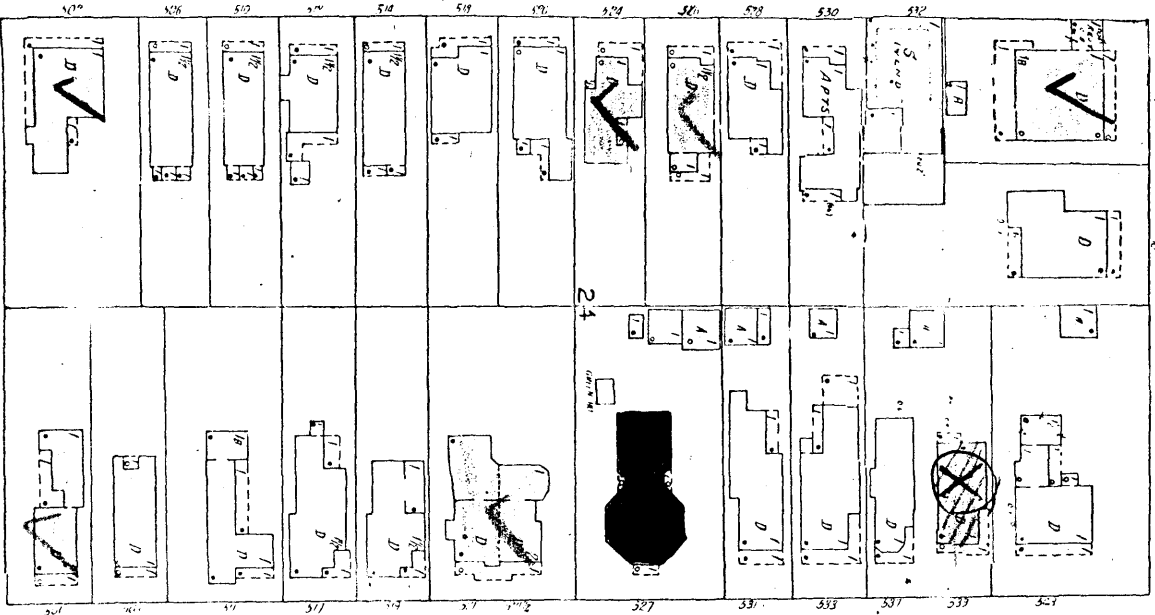
This house was damaged in December, 1968 by fire. Damage was restricted to the interior and roof and was of such a nature as not to unduly impair the restoration efforts being conducted on the house. Because of this fire detailed exploration of the original portion of the house revealed concealed foundations and other structural details indicating that this portion also had originally been octagonal in shape. Examination indicates that the rear structure was modified to a rectangular shape at approximately the same time that the larger octagonal was added. Continued archeological research is being conducted, as a double one-story octagon would be of extreme significance.

↑
can't be because
order house altered at
time of octagon
construction.

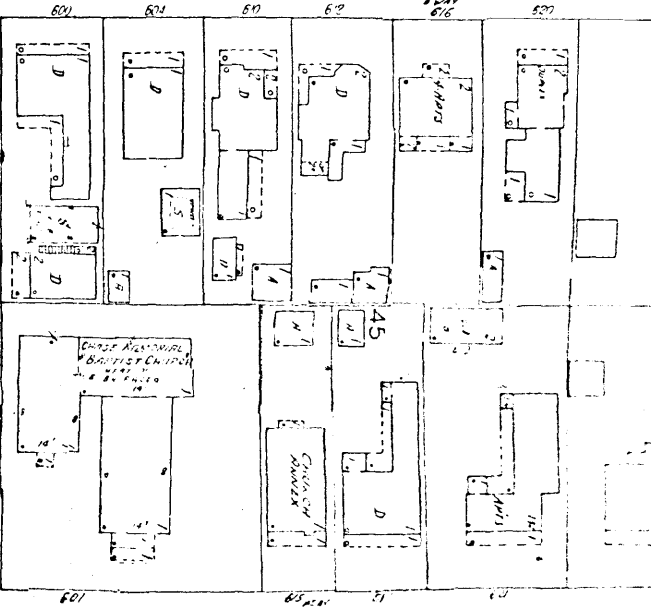
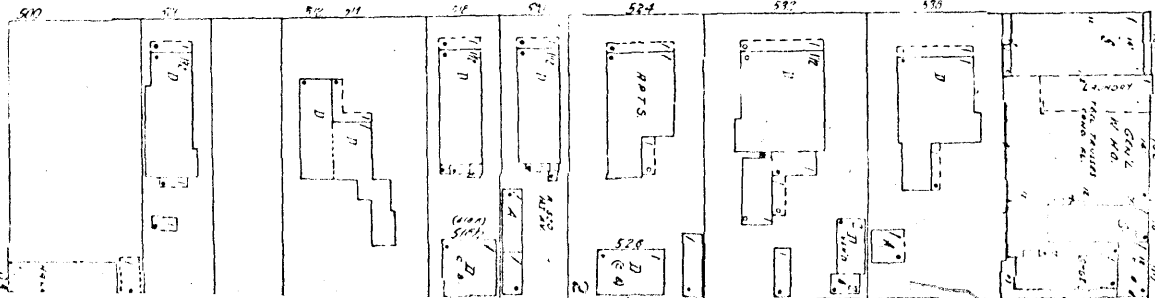




BROADWAY



1ST AV.



6TH ST

