

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Section number _____ Page _____

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 100001680

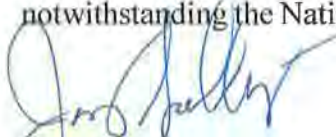
Date Listed: 9/28/2017

Property Name: Mason, William H. and Marian D, House

County: Jones

State: MS

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

9-28-2017

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 10:

The lat/long coordinates were incorrectly entered. The coordinates are hereby amended to read:

Latitude: 31.702233 degrees
Longitude: -89.13350 degrees

The Mississippi State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: William H. and Marian D. Mason House

Other names/site number: "Greenbrier," Ryan and Lori Hearn Residence

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 1050 North 6th Avenue

City or town: Laurel State: MS County: JONES 34

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following

level(s) of significance: ___ national X statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria: ___ A X B X C ___ D

<p>Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>Kate Blount</u></p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>Date <u>8-10-17</u></p>
<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>Date</p>
<p>Title :</p>	<p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

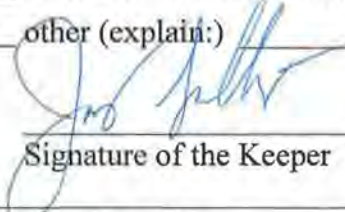
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

9.28.2017
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u> </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th Century and 20th Century Revivals/Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Walls: Brick, Weatherboard
Roof: Asbestos Shingles

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Location and Structure:

The Mason House, also known as Greenbrier, is located at 1050 North 6th Avenue in Laurel, MS, one of the county seats of Jones County. The home sits on the corner of North 6th Avenue and West 11th Street. Constructed in 1926 as a traditional Pennsylvania – type farm house, it was later remodeled during the 1950's to Colonial Revival setting. The name Greenbrier comes as a result of Mr. Mason's upbringings in Greenbrier County, Virginia, and the greenbrier plant used in the house's historic gardens. The house is a two-story rectangular shaped plan, with an approximate square footage of 5,634. The gable and dormer roof structure is clad in asbestos shingles with a relatively steep pitch. Dentil molding is seen on portions of the fascia, particularly the primary façade and parts of the West elevation. Three elevations are brick, with weatherboard on the west rear elevation.

Narrative Description

The Mason House neighborhood is primarily residential, approximately one mile from historic downtown Laurel. The home sizes vary, with mostly large and medium sized homes. The lot sizes are fairly large and consistent through the neighborhood, approximately 1.01 acres for the Mason House. The average setbacks for the homes appear to be around 100 feet.

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Exterior:

Primary Façade (East Elevation, front):

The two-story front façade faces the east, spanning approximately 92.7 feet corner to corner and organized into three gabled blocks with the center block slightly higher than the outer wings. The brick exterior siding replaced the original Masonite clapboards in a c.1950 renovation and has recently been painted a cream color to replicate the original 1920s color of the house. The majority of windows have raised panel functional shutters, featuring a classical shutter dog, black in color. The majority of the windows retain their original wood trim and heads.

The middle block (44.8ft. length) is slightly offset from the other blocks, projecting approximately 2 feet to the east, and boasts 4 solid wood fluted pilasters extending from ground level to a modillioned cornice. A centered cross-gabled roof, Hardie-plank siding and an oval window in the gable marks the primary entrance. Windows are 12/12 double hung sash on the second floor and four 16/16 windows on the first floor, all of wood.

A shallow gabled portico with cornice returns and an arched ceiling is supported on slender wood columns and shelters the center entrance, a solid oak double-leaf paneled door—each leaf with three small arched panes—and a fanlight above. Detailed molding enriches the entry way.

The north wing (31.0ft. length) features two gabled dormers on the front slope, enriched with detailed molding. The dormers were added as part of the c.1950 front façade renovation, and hold windows with an arched 9-light upper sash over a 6-pane lower sash. The second floor features two wood double-hung 12/12 windows with two 8/12 windows on the first floor.

The south end wing (16.9ft. length) features a single gabled dormer with the same fenestration as the north side dormers. There are two 12/12 windows on the second story symmetrical with the north wing. The first floor contains a centered arched opening with a solid wood door leading into the sunroom (enclosed porch), flanked by double leaf casement windows under 4 pane segmental fanlights.

North Elevation:

The north elevation is clad in painted brick (c.1950) and is approximately 22.2 ft. long. The first floor has paired 6/6 double hung windows opening into the kitchen; the second floor shows two 12/12 windows. A small 12-light casement with a small 4-pane half-moon transom is set in the gable apex and lights the attic. Each window has raised panel shutters, featuring a classical shutter dog, black in color, and cornice returns decorate the gable ends.

West Elevation (rear):

The rear elevation is clad with Hardie-plank weatherboard chosen to replace the original Masonite siding board in 2016 due to rot and fatigue, as the closest similar replacement. The rear elevation has similar offset sections as the primary façade presenting three distinct blocks.

Offset to the north a covered walk with a gable roof connects the house with the garage. Dentil molding is outlined on the fascia and the roof is supported by four symmetrical columns connected with segmental arches. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles similar to the house while the interior ceiling is paneled mason board.

The north block has a modillioned cornice. Three double-hung windows in simple surrounds extend across the second floor. The most northern is 12/12 and the remaining two are 9/9. A shed-roof overhang is seen on the first floor connects the garage walkway with the northern

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exterior wall of the middle block. This covered overhang shelters the basement stairs, as well as covered access to a secondary doorway. The underside of the overhang is arched paneled mason board. The overhang also shelters two windows on the first floor, a 12/12 double hung and an 18 pane by 18 pane double casement window.

The middle rear block projects 13.5ft. to the west, and spans 44.8ft. from north to south, and the three exterior walls of the middle section will be detailed as follows: The north facing exterior wall, west facing exterior wall, and south facing exterior wall.

- The north facing exterior wall (13.5 ft. length) has three windows. The first floor features a 6-foot-tall 16/16 double hung window. The second floor features two 8-pane double casements. The double casements were updated in the 1980s or 1990s before the current owners bought the property.
- The west facing exterior wall (44.8ft. length) boasts a grand rear entry, comprised of a covered porch, large wood columns, and an off-center cross-gabled roof with a half-moon 5-pane window in the pediment. The second floor has two styles of windows, two 8-pane double casements on the north end which also date from the 1980s or 1990s and two original 18-pane double casements on the south end. Dentil molding showcases the porch fascia, with detailed molding, trim, and paneling, coupled with a recessed light on the underside. At the center is an arched entry with keystone, with recessed double-leaf 3-light wood doors topped by a fanlight. Flanking the entry on the first floor are twin curved bow windows, consisting of 32 panes each window. Recessed openings on top of the bow windows house lighting, illuminating the detailed fascia paneling. Finally, three windows present themselves on the south end of the middle section. A 25-pane flat window is on the first floor, and two 6/6 double hung on the second floor.
- The south exterior wall (13.5ft. length) features a single 12/12 double hung window on the second floor and a multi-light window.

The southern end rear section (17.3ft. length) features five windows, three 6-foot-tall casement windows with 4 pane half-moon transoms on the first floor, and two 16-pane double casement windows.

South Elevation:

The south elevation (22.2ft. length) is clad with painted brick (c.1950). Seven windows are displayed. The first floor has four 6-foot-tall casement windows with 4 pane half-moon transoms, the second floor two 18 pane casements, and a small single casement (12 pane) on the attic level, with a small 4 pane half-moon window transom.

Interior – Plan:

First Floor:

The first-floor layout is rectangular shape. The majority of the floors are retain the original thin strip solid oak. The kitchen and sunroom differ with tile, although it is believed the oak is under the current kitchen floor. In the main change to the historic floorplan the, original 14ft by 17ft open porch area in the west corner of the living room was enclosed during the renovation of c.1950.

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The main entry way from the east leads into a quaint foyer, flanked by double-door openings to the south and north, and a grand staircase to the west. Six main rooms comprise the first floor. Furthest south lies a sunroom, originally an open porch, with tile floor and 9 single pane, 6ft tall casement windows. The sunroom lies about 1ft lower in elevation than the remaining first floor. Working north, two double-door openings allow entry into the main living room that is the largest room in the Mason House, spanning 52.8ft length by 17ft in width and historically considered to be the parlor room/den. The living room was expanded to the rear with the porch enclosure, during the c.1950 renovation: the west end section (14ft by 17ft) was originally a back porch, but was enclosed to be part of the living room and the original western wall of the living room removed. A fireplace sits on the southern wall, and the large 25-pane window on the west wall.

A double swinging door on the north wall of the foyer allows entry into the formal dining room. From the dining room, the kitchen sits to the north through a single swinging door, and the family room to the west through a large opening. The family room contains two 32-pane bow windows on the west (rear) wall. The kitchen has been completely renovated c. 2016 from the original layout, and now includes a pantry, 'mudroom', banquette, and island. A wet bar and guest bathroom are situated on the south end of the kitchen. A functional elevator, believed to be original to the house, nests behind a single door frame in the south east corner of the kitchen, providing service to the second floor hallway.

Second Floor:

The second floor contains the living quarters. The main staircase allows access to the second floor near the middle of the house. There are four main bedrooms; identified as north, south (master), west, and east. The master bedroom is on the south end, accompanied by a large reading room just to the south, and master bath on the south west corner. In the second foyer, a door on the west leads to the attic, and a guest bathroom on the right that has been converted to a laundry room. A north-south hallway divides the west and east bedrooms. The hallway contains several storage closets and the elevator door. The western bedroom features a bathroom and two closets. The east bedroom features a Jack and Jill bathroom connected to the north bedroom. Finally, the north bedroom completes the second floor, and has one closet.

Interior – Design:

Most of the interior features are consistent with the original design, which was meant to highlight the many uses of Masonite as a building material. A traditional raised-panel wainscot can be seen on the majority of the first and second floor walls, consisting of a baseboard, horizontal stile, vertical stile, and chair rail. The inlaid panel boards are a Masonite panel product. An elegant four-layer crown molding with dentils transitions the wall to the ceiling. The ceilings match the wall design with an inlaid Masonite panel, panel molding, and wood framing. The only exception is in the kitchen, living room, and bathrooms, which all feature a solid smooth ceiling. An egg and dart molding is seen on the perimeter of the living room ceiling, offset slightly from the crown molding.

All doors contain original hardware, either brass or glass door knobs. All interior doors are solid wood with a three-panel design. All floors are thin strips of solid oak, all of consistent width,

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with the exception of the kitchen, bathrooms, and sunroom which have tile floors. The majority of windows are original to the house, with wood casings and wood frames. Windows in the sun room and western bedroom on the second floor have been updated. Original light fixtures and sconces were removed by a previous owner, probably in c.2015.

The stairway begins with a double turnout starting step. Treads are a solid oak, similar to the floor stain. Traditional hardwood stair balusters, Dover white in color, support the hardwood stained hand rail. Newels are seen on the starting step, first and second landing. Risers are a painted Dover white.

The first-floor fireplace mantel is the centerpiece of the south living room wall. The wood mantel employs a rich and varied range of classical decorative devices. The pilasters and frieze contain delicate carvings of ornamental designs, mostly floral. The mantel is surmounted by a generous corniced shelf incorporating tiers of egg and dart, dentil, and lamb's tongue. The mantel surround is lined with a dark green marble with hints of white streaks. The second-floor fireplace features a much simpler design. Fluted pilasters support the shelf.

The structural integrity of the Mason House is of utmost quality. The basement walls are board-formed concrete, with a concrete floor. Metal I-beams span horizontally west to east, supporting the first floor of the house. Connected by rivets, the I-beams adjoin a vertical I-beam to the floor. Floor joists are a true rough cut 2" by 10" pine board. X-pattern cross braces are abundant throughout the floor joists and wall studs. The basement includes a non-functional wood burning brick furnace that extends up through the two floors and vents above the roof. The fireplaces have been converted to natural gas.

Speaking tubes are also present in the Mason House. The speaking tubes were a 19th century, pre-electric, intercom system in large, and not so large, upper-class houses. They consist of a series of pipes (tubes) that connected the major rooms of the house to the servant's areas, i.e., the kitchen, and two guest bedrooms, Mr. Mason's reading room, and sunroom. The speaking portion has a lily shaped bell on each end. The idea is similar to that on an old ring-and-speak into the receiver, phone, and used to communicate throughout the house.

Outbuilding(s):

At the northwest corner of the property is a contributing detached three car garage, believed to be built as the same time as the house (1926). The design is consistent for the most part with the original Dutch Colonial style of the main house, but with less detailed moldings. Some Masonite siding boards were replaced with the Hardie-plank weatherboard in 2016. Others were in good shape and remain intact. The roof is asbestos shingles. The interior and exterior needs major rehabilitation. The west end of the garage contains a storage room and pool bathroom/storage room.

A pool and cabana are situated on the westernmost section of the property, and are contributing resources. The pool was rumored to be built as a remedy for Mrs. Mason's polio sometime in the 1930s or 40s. The rear patio and pool area are laid with old Chicago brick, several stamped with

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“Laurel, MS.” The cabana has 2 brick sides and a brick rear. The front features four large arched openings, resting on brick columns. The roof is asbestos shingles, similar to the house and garage.

8. Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry
Architecture

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Period of Significance

1926 – c. 1955

Significant Dates

1940 (Mr. Mason Death)

1947 (year of renovation)

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

William H. Mason

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Henry G. Markel (1947 renovation)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The William and Marian D Mason House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria B (statewide significance) and C (local significance). Constructed in 1926 by Mr. William Horatio Mason and Mrs. Marian D. Mason and renovated by Mrs. Mason after Mr. Mason's death, the house is a Colonial Revival centerpiece in Laurel, MS. The house is most significant as the residence and showplace of Mr. Mason, the inventor of Masonite hardboard, and, as founder of Masonite Corporation, an important figure in the revitalization of the southern lumber industry. The Mason House employs the very modern Masonite material to impart the look and feel of a Colonial mansion, demonstrating the material's malleability into many shapes and forms that transformed the building material industry.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

William Horatio Mason was born on February 19, 1877 in Virginia and died in Laurel, Mississippi on August 24, 1940. As a young man, Mason worked for Thomas Edison under apprenticeship for more than a decade at Menlo Park, New Jersey. In January 1908, he married Marian Dana (1886-1975), whose family had involvements with large lumber manufacturing mills in Wisconsin and Mississippi. He particularly took interest in reusing sawmill wood waste as well as capturing the naval stores, a pine sap derivative, from southern pine lumber.¹

During 1920, the Masons relocated to Laurel, MS to oversee one of his wife's family's sawmills. He opened a turpentine extraction plant in January 1921 and expanded the sawmill so it soon had a 350,000 board feet capacity. During the same year, Mason developed a strategy to remove rosin from southern pine and soon erected a full capacity plant in Laurel. From 1921-1924, Mason oversaw the construction and operation of three additional plants: in Laurel, Mississippi, D'Lo, Mississippi, and Bogalusa, Louisiana. Soon after, however, the demand for naval stores began to decline. Along with a shortage of lumber and Mason's growing disinterest in extracting the stores, he passed the management role to a fellow inventor.

Mason's interest switched gears in late 1924 to experiments in combining wood waste, steam, and pressure in an attempt to create profitable solid fiber board.² The same group that financially backed his naval store plants agreed to back his new project. Mason developed a steam pressure gun that would eventually produce wood fibers. Failure after failure to convert the fibers into a hardboard, however, eventually lead to the discontinuation of his tests.

Mr. Mason did not abandon his theory and continued small side projects. An accidental encounter led to the discovery of Masonite board. During a lunch hour, he left a wood fiber sample in a press that was accidently creating heat due to a leaking valve. The combination of wood fiber, heat, pressure, and moisture created a strong bond between the wood fibers. Significant investment came from area lumber companies, and factory construction began in the fall of 1925. Mason designed all of the machinery, and production eventually began in fall of 1926. The company produced both an insulation board and a hard board.

The success of his company led William and Marian Mason to build a home during 1926-1927. Their chosen parcel comprised six city lots on North 6th Avenue, which already boasted many grand homes, mostly for individuals in the lumber and oil industries. Mason used his house as a showpiece for his Masonite products, including hardboard, insulation board, intricate Colonial crown molding, and exterior siding. By the late 1940s, the exterior siding was suffering from rot and fatigue and was replaced in a renovation by Mrs. Mason around 1950. Most of the interior hardboard and insulation board remain, other than a few renovated locations. According to

¹ John Hebron Moore, "William H. Mason, Southern Industrialist." *The Journal of Southern History*, Vol. 27, No. 2 (Mar, 1961), pp. 169-183.

² Moore, "William H. Mason, Southern Industrialist," 169-183.

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relatives, Thomas Edison visited the Mason house often and stayed in the north wing. A picture is said to exist of Mr. Mason and Mr. Edison inside the house, but it has yet to be recovered.

During the late 1930s, nearly 30,000,000 square feet of board was being produced at Laurel Masonite. Additional companies began producing Masonite outside the US, including in Sweden, Italy, Australia, and Canada. Some five years later, Masonite reached annual sales greater than eighteen million and contained assets worth more than sixteen million. Mr. Mason proved to be a valuable asset to the community. At one point, Masonite in Laurel employed 4,000-5,000 workers. In addition, Masonite employed hundreds of foresters to replenish the forest and manage those resources once they matured. Today, the Laurel plant provides employment for 550 workers. Moore suggests the following:

Masonite saved southern Mississippi from economic catastrophe. When the great sawmills finally closed their doors, Masonite was ready to provide employment to many who could not have found jobs otherwise, and its steady purchases of pulp wood from the farmers pumped desperately needed cash into the community. Indeed, it would be no exaggeration to say that, without Masonite, Laurel and much of southern Mississippi would be an economic wasteland today.³

Mr. Mason has been applauded and recognized in Laurel. A local elementary school was named in his remembrance, William H. Mason School. In addition, to show its appreciation to Mr. Mason, the city of Laurel built and dedicated Mason Park in 1955. Mrs. Mason, in addition to Masonite employees, contributed a significant sum of money to the park formation.⁴

Architecture

The Mason House was designed in 1926 as a traditional Pennsylvania-Dutch farm house sided with Masonite weatherboards (Figure 1). The architect and builder are unknown, but it is documented that Mrs. Mason made significant contributions to the design, especially the interior where she specified wall patterns to incorporate Masonite pressed hardboard. During visits to New York's Metropolitan Museum, she sketched details and trim profiles she saw in Colonial interiors in the American Wing. The flexible paneling design was incorporated into the walls and ceilings: a combination of rectangular and square paneling, joined by vertical and horizontal wood strips, with inlaid molding to replicate a traditional elegant 18th-century paneling. The use of Masonite hard board allowed for either painting or paper, and didn't crack during settling unlike traditional plaster (Figure 2).

Mr. Mason passed away in 1940, but Marian resided in the home until her death in 1975. In 1947-1948, she undertook a major remodeling of the house, in concert with Jackson architect Henry G. Markel, adopting a more formal (or "authentic" as noted in the newspaper⁵) Georgian Colonial Revival design. While not adding to or changing the original symmetrical massing or

³ Moore, "William H. Mason, Southern Industrialist," pp. 183.

⁴ Anne Sanders. "Laurel Still Remembers, Appreciates Will Mason." *Clarion Ledger*, February 24, 1975.

⁵ *Clarion-Ledger* (Jackson, MS), Oct. 26, 1947, 3:4.

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windows, Markel and Mrs. Mason removed the original Masonite weatherboard on three of the four exterior walls and replaced it with brick cladding as a response to the growing realization that the Masonite siding was not well suited for exposure to weather. Markel and Mason also modified the front porch to a smaller, simpler portico, changed the single front wood door to a double door entry way, and added dormers to the north and south wings of the house. Several windows on the front of the home were lengthened, matched to the solid wood window style similar to the remaining windows.⁶ Newspaper accounts indicate Mrs. Mason also made some interior alterations at this time, including “a new library, changes to dining room and other interior decoration.”⁷

Early Colonial Revival buildings are considered a transition from the Queen Anne Style which featured asymmetrical or complex massing. The Colonial Revival style looked to the English and Dutch houses of the colonial period for precedent, freely combining details from multiple sources. It became the most dominant style for residential buildings throughout the country in the first half of the 20th century, and continues into the 21st century, but it became a more formal style after the 1930s, as architects studied buildings from Colonial Williamsburg and other Colonial towns.⁸ As remodeled in 1947-1948 by Marian Mason, the Mason House is a good local example of this formal, scholarly Georgian Revival variation of the Colonial Revival style; featuring a symmetrical primary façade, gabled roof, two stories, with balanced proportions and minimal decoration.⁹ Double-hung-sash windows ranging from six-over-six to 12-over-twelve or 16-over-sixteen as seen at the Mason House, often with large wood shutters, are a common detail of the Georgian Revival. A centered, classical entry is sheltered by a portico on pilasters and columns. Interior Colonial Revival features include turned staircase balusters, paneled doors with

⁶ Born in New Orleans, LA, Henry Gerant Markel graduated from high school there and received private instruction in the office of Frank N. Wilcox from 1900-1903. He worked as junior draftsman in the offices of Emile Weil and Rathbone DeBuys from 1903 to 1913, and served as an engineer in charge of building construction of Camp McClellan in Alabama during WWI. After the war, he moved back to New Orleans and set up his own practice from 1921-1923 before again joining Weil's firm (1923-31) and then as an associate with Sam Stone (1931-35). He moved to Jackson, MS, and again entered independent practice, although he also apparently worked with the firm of R.W. Naef in the late 1930s and with Spain, Campbell & Biggers in the late 1940s. His office was at 236½ W. Capitol Street, Jackson, in 1947. See Mississippi Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) Database, published online by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) website: Retrieved 7-25-2017.

<https://www.apps.mdah.ms.gov/Public/rpt.aspx?rpt=artisanSearch&Name=markel&City=Any&Role=Any>.

⁷ *Clarion-Ledger* (Jackson, MS), Oct. 26, 1947, 3:4.

⁸ Virginia Savage McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses, The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture*, Rev. Ed. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013), p.414

⁹ Valunzuela Preservation Studio, "Historic Context for the Colonial Revival Architectural Style in Louisiana." Austin, Texas. May 2012.

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brass door knobs, detailed trimwork, especially dentilled crown molding and paneled walls and ceilings. These interior details also illustrate the versatility of Masonite.

The house has been featured in several home and garden magazines dated from the 1940s. The articles are, more specifically;

- House Beautiful, August 1946.
 - *Front cover picture*
- House Beautiful, April 1946
 - *Pictures, pg. 111*
- House Beautiful, November 1944
 - *Pictures, pg. 92*
- American Home, April 1946
 - *Glass collection, pg. 44*

The City of Laurel recognized the historic and architectural significance of the Mason House when it designated the house as a local historic landmark in 1988.¹⁰

The City of Laurel was incorporated as a village in 1886. With the combination of railroads and the untapped timber of the vast southern pine forests, Laurel prospered in the early 20th century. Lumber barons moved their families to Laurel and their presence “stimulated the building of schools, churches, and museums; and they built their own homes.”¹¹ Since the period of Laurel’s residential growth coincides with the popularity of the Colonial Revival style, houses in the style are well represented in the listed historic districts. Of the twenty-six Colonial Revival houses that are contributing elements to the Laurel Central Historic District, three houses stand out. The George S. Gardiner House at 520 5th Avenue, built c. 1901, is a two-story frame house with a full-height partial-width pedimented portico supported by four Ionic columns. The 1907 Charles Green House, 756 N. 5th Avenue, was designed by New Orleans architects DeBuys, Churchill & Labouisse and renovated in 1924 by Koch & Wilson. The John Lindsey House, c. 1915, located at 705 5th Street, features a full-height, partial width portico with a flat balustrade roof. All three of these houses are early 20th examples of the Colonial Revival style, while Mason House, with its 1947 remodeling into a formal Georgian Revival style, illustrates the continuing popularity of the Colonial Revival style into mid-century.

Outside of Mississippi, another house that the owner used as a model home to showcase his company’s building material is the Ralph and Sunny Wilson House in Temple, Texas (NRHP 11-25-1998). Built in 1959, the Wilson House is a U-shaped, open-plan ranch house that “features the various types of plastic laminate” developed by the Wilsonart company. Wilsonart laminate is used for countertops, wall panels, cabinetry, shower surrounds, and other innovative uses as a

¹⁰ Melinda Gholson, “Laurel Taps Five Landmarks for Protection.” *Hattiesburg American*, April 25, 1988.

¹¹ National Register of Historic Places. Laurel Central Historic District. Laurel, Jones County, Mississippi. #19870904

William H. and Marian D. Mason House
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Gardens

Just as much thought and effort were contributed to the formal English gardens as the house. The landscape and design came from the Fredrick Law Olmstead Group out of New York, the same group that designed Gardiner Park in Laurel. However, the extent of the original Olmstead design that survives is not clear and may be the subject of further study.

William H. and Marian D. Mason House
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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Dunbar, Jean. "The Colonial Revival-Old Colony Style." *Early American Homes*, February 2000, 52.

Gough, Marion. "She Practices What She Preaches." *House Beautiful*, November 1944, 92.

Key, David Stanton. "Laurel, Mississippi: A Historical Perspective." MA thesis, East Tennessee University, 2001.

McAlester, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses, The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture*. Rev. Ed. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013.

Moore, John Hebron. "William H. Mason, Southern Industrialist." *Journal of Southern History* 27, no. 2 (1961, 169-183.)

National Register of Historic Places. Laurel Central Historic District, Laurel, Jones County, Mississippi. #19870904.

Poore, Patricia. "I just bought a Colonial Revival." *Old House Interiors*, December 2012, 27-29.

Preservation in Mississippi. "Laurel's Contribution to Architectural History."
www.misspreservation.com/2010/07/28/laurels-contribution-to-architectural-history.

SouthBear. "Depletion of the forest and Mountains of Waste," (March 23, 2002). *William H. Mason: The Man Who Went to Lunch*. Retrieved from: <http://archive.is/dTRV>

The Clarion Ledger, October 24, 1947 and February 24, 1975.

The Hattiesburg American, April 25, 1989.

"Universal Pageantry in a Glass Collection." *The American Home*, April 1946, 44.

Valenzuela Preservation Studio. "Historic Context for The Colonial Revival Style in Louisiana. Austin, TX. May 2012.

- *House Beautiful*, August 1946
- *House Beautiful*, April 1946
- *House Beautiful*, November 1944 (See Figures 3-4)
- *American Home*, April 1946

William H. and Marian D. Mason House
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Jones County, MS
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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 067-LAR-0388 _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.01

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 89.13350° West | 31.702233° North |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lot 18 and the North 85 ½ feet of Lot 17 of Block 8 of the McCallum Addition to the city of Laurel, Mississippi as per plat thereof now on file in the Chancery Clerk's office of the second Judicial District of Jones County, Mississippi.

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Also, beginning at the Northeast Corner of Lot 18 of Block 8 of the McCallum Addition to the City of Laurel, Mississippi and run North along Westerly boundary line of Sixth Avenue 18 ½ feet, thence run West parallel with the North side of said Lot 18, 225 feet, run South parallel with Sixth Avenue 18 ½ feet, run thence East on and along North line of said Lot 18, 225 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Less and Except: Commencing at the SW/c of Lot 17 of Block 8, of McCallum's addition to the City of Laurel, second Judicial District, Jones County, Mississippi, thence North along the West line of said Lot 17 for 14.50 feet for the Point of Beginning. Thence continue North along said Lot 17 for 13.70 feet, thence leaving said West line run South 84 degrees 46 minutes 19 seconds East 9.98 feet, thence run South 84 degrees 36 minutes 49 seconds East 79.07 feet, thence run North 89 degrees 40 minutes 37 seconds East 136.71 feet to the East line of Lot 17, thence run South along the East line of said Lot 17 for 4.98 feet, thence leaving said East line run South 89 degrees 42 minutes 13 seconds West 225.37 feet to the Point of Beginning. Containing 0.0345 acre, more or less.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the entire legal description bounds of the historic Mason property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ryan Hearn
organization: Owner
street & number: 1050 North 6th Ave.
city or town: Laurel state: MS zip code: 39440
e-mail rhearn35@gmail.com
telephone: 601-529-4386
date: _____

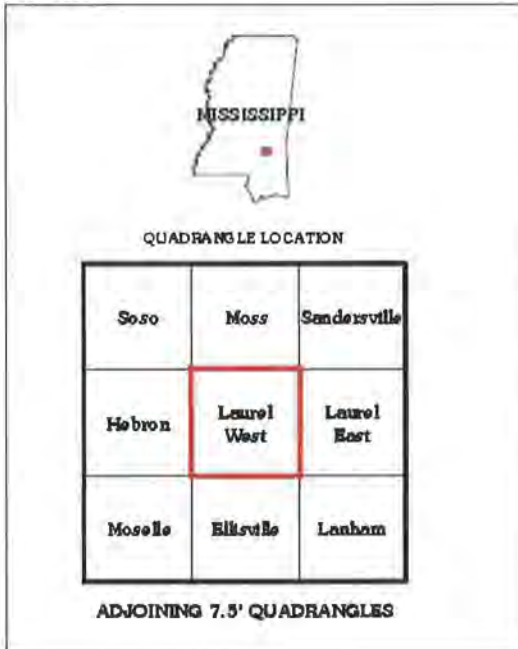
Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

William H. and Marian D. Mason House
Name of Property

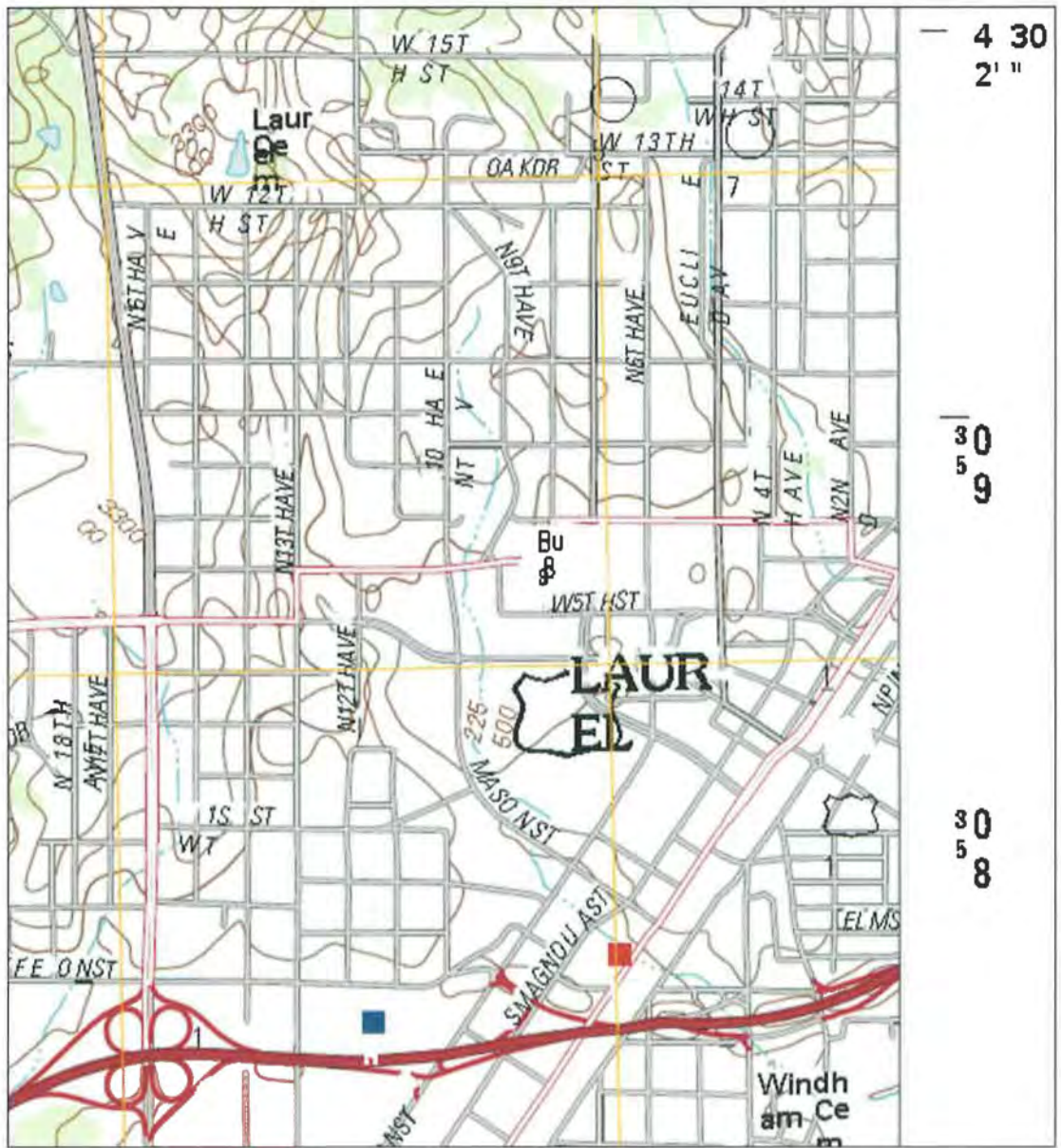
Jones County, MS
County and State

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.



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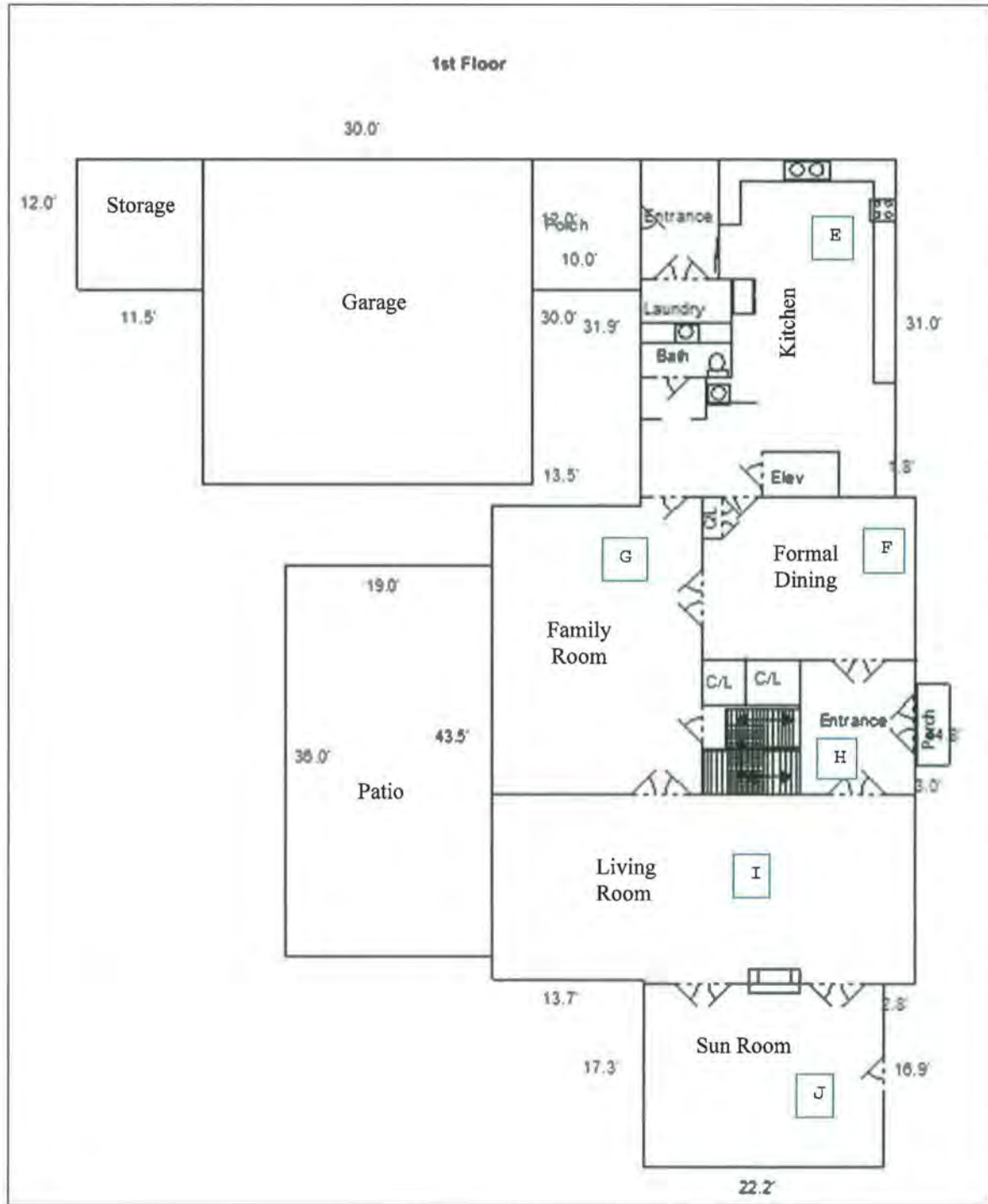


William H. and Marian D. Mason House
Name of Property

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- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

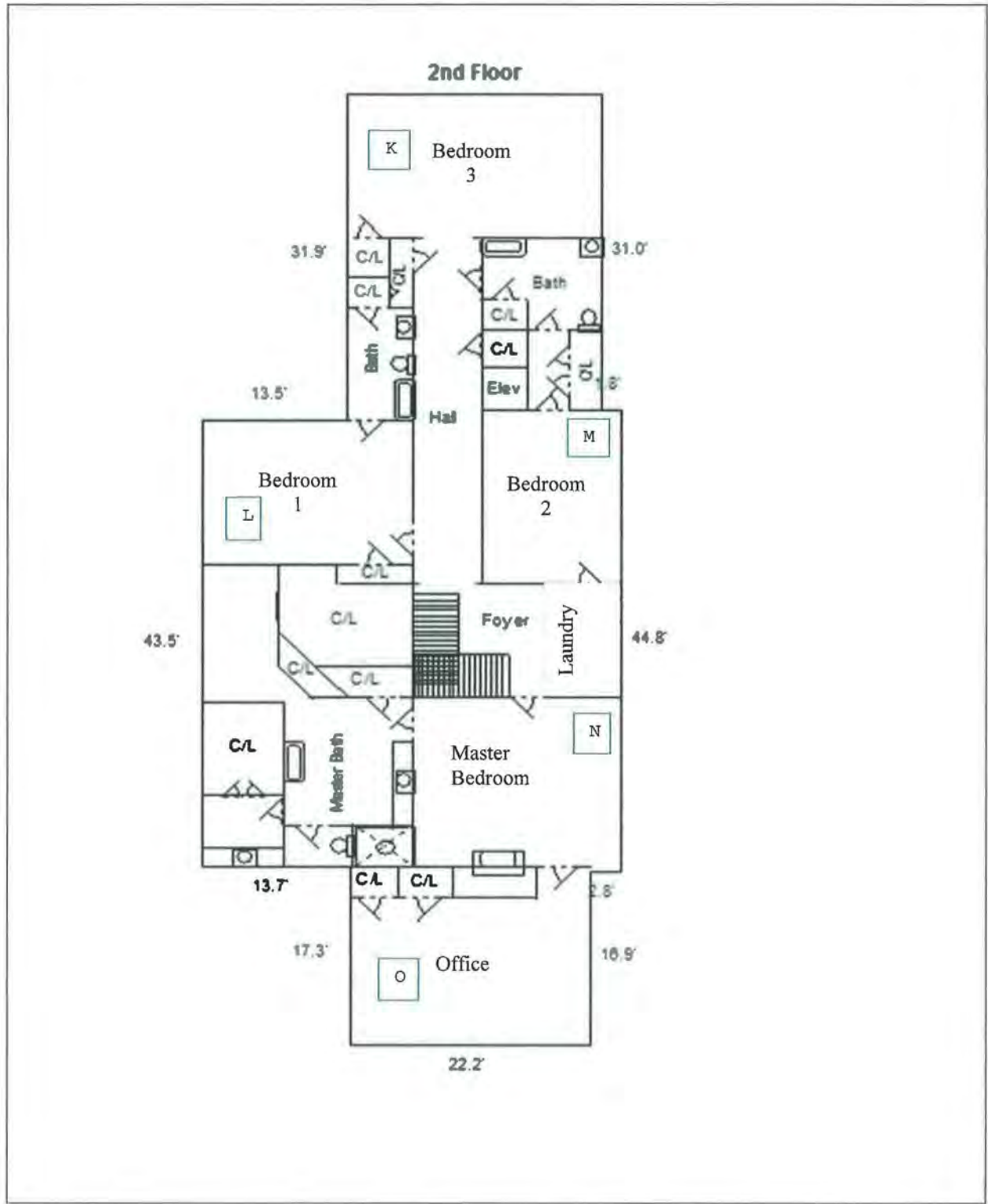
Floor Plans - First Floor



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Second Floor



William H. and Marian D. Mason House
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• **Additional items:**



William H. and Marian D. Mason House (1936) Original facade. Courtesy of Lauren Rogers Museum & Library

Figure 1: William and Marian Mason House, c.1930, showing original "Dutch Colonial" facade and Masonite weatherboards.

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William Mason House (Photo) Interior. Courtesy of Lauran M. Rogers Museum & Library



Figure 2: William and Marian Mason House, c.1930, parlor showing Masonite ceiling panels

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92

She practices what SHE PREACHES

The pressed wood in Mrs. William H. Mason's house was her husband's invention. But it was her own idea to give this super-modern building material traditional elegance in 18th-Century paneling

By Mariou Gough



Greenbrier's window and doorway overhangs are lined with pressed wood which was also used as sheathing in the construction of the house. It's moisture-resistant, durable

Mrs. William H. Mason has known about pressed wood from the word go, for her husband invented a process for making it and was research director for the Masonite Corporation that produces it. Naturally, when Greenbrier, Mrs. Mason's home in Laurel, Mississippi, was planned, pressed wood hard board—and lots of it—was called for.

But Mrs. Mason, much as she appreciated the virtues of her husband's product, was more than a little alarmed at the notion of using it on the interior walls of her Pennsylvania-type farm house. For until then she had seen it used only on the smooth walls of modern rooms, its panels joined by vertical strips. Fine for moderns, but this traditionally-given lady, who collects antiques and loves oriental rugs, couldn't visualize her belongings against that kind of background.

So she decided to experiment, to prove in her own house that pressed wood walls can be as traditionally designed as the most elegant 18th-century paneling. She made a study of wood paneling, visited New York's Metropolitan Museum, and made detailed sketches of the woodwork she saw in the American Wing. Pressed wood didn't let her down. As you see here, it adapted itself graciously to paneling designs of bona fide 18th-century origin, used traditionally on both ceilings and walls.



Inspiration for Mrs. Mason's experiment in pressed wood paneling came from her lovely traditional furniture and rugs. She collected a lot in England, still explores shops in New Orleans



Not only the walls and ceilings in this house are pressed wood, but even the family portraits have been painted on it. Solid wood is used for doors and cabinets since pressed wood is made in sheets not much thicker than 1/4"



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANELLE BERTHOUD

Figure 3: House Beautiful, November 1944, p.92

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Every important room in Mrs. Mason's traditional house is paneled in modern pressed wood. In the upstairs sitting room (above) see how the material adapts itself to a typical 18th-century woodwork design. This use of hard board for interior walls is known as dry wall construction, since the board takes the place of plaster. The tough, smooth-surfaced board can be painted or papered, doesn't crack as the house settles

Left. If you study these rooms you'll soon become aware of the design flexibility of pressed wood. For the paneling patterns of no two rooms are alike. Panels above the dado in the dining room are regular rectangles. Hard board is actually wood, made by compressing chips so that the wood fibers interlock. It can be worked like wood, its edges rounded or beveled. Panels are cut out separately and applied to the wall

Figure 4: House Beautiful, November 1944, p.93.

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: *Mason House*

City or Vicinity: *Laurel*

County: *Jones*

State: *MS*

Photographer: *Ryan Hearn*

Date Photographed: *Fall 2016*

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 23: East elevation, view to W
- 2 of 23: South elevation, view to N
- 3 of 23: North elevation, view to S
- 4 of 23: West elevation, view to E
- 5 of 23: Interior, kitchen, view to N
- 6 of 23: Interior, kitchen, view to S
- 7 of 23: Interior, formal dining room, view to SE toward entrance hall
- 8 of 23: Interior, family room, view to W toward back yard
- 9 of 23: Interior, family room, view to SSE
- 10 of 23: Interior, foyer/entry hall and staircase, view to W
- 11 of 23: Interior, entry hall, view to E
- 12 of 23: Interior, living room, view to W toward back yard
- 13 of 23: Interior, living room, view to S
- 14 of 23: Interior, sunroom, view to SW
- 15 of 23: Interior, 2nd floor, Bedroom 3
- 16 of 23: Interior, 2nd floor, Bedroom 1
- 17 of 23: Interior, 2nd floor, Master Bedroom
- 18 of 23: Interior, 2nd floor, Bedroom 2
- 19 of 23: Garage, N elevation, view to SW
- 20 of 23: Pool and poolhouse, E elevation, view to W
- 21 of 23: Patio and rear courtyard, view to N
- 22 of 23: Side yard, view to W
- 23 of 23: Pool, view to SW

William H. and Marian D. Mason House
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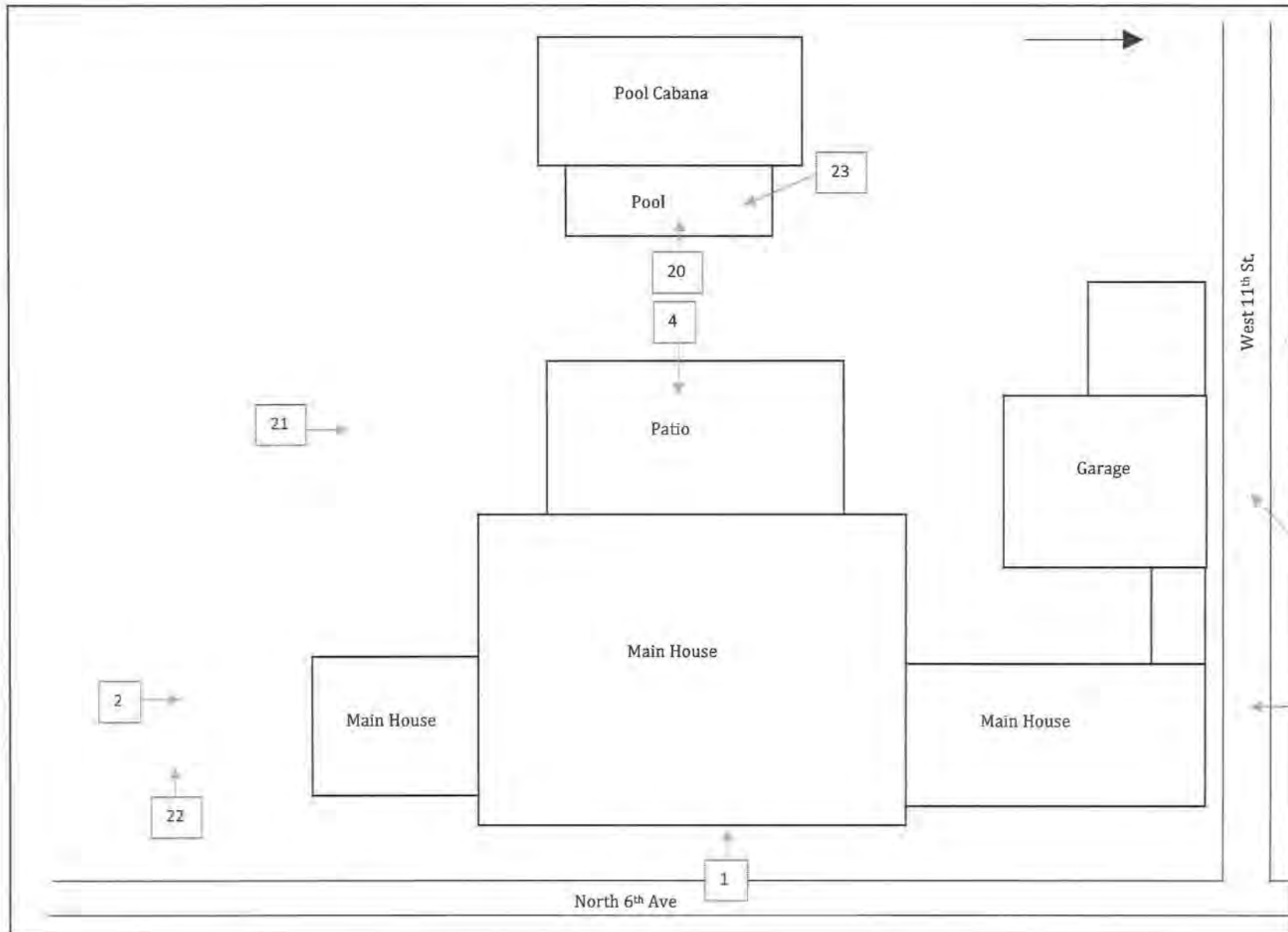
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

William H. and Marian D. Mason House
Name of Property

Jones County, MS
County and State

Site Map (plus photo log identifiers)

















































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 8/14/2017 Date of Pending List: 9/19/2017 Date of 16th Day: 10/4/2017 Date of 45th Day: 9/28/2017 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 9/28/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : Yes

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION
Jim Woodrick, director
PO Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571
601-576-6940 • Fax 601-576-6955
mdah.state.ms.us



August 11, 2017

Mr. Paul Loether
Program Director, National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are pleased to enclose the nomination form and supporting documents to nominate the following properties to the National Register of Historic Places:

William and Marian Mason House ("Greenbrier"), Laurel, Jones County

The property was approved for nomination by the Mississippi National Register Review Board at its meeting on July 20, 2017.

We trust you will find the enclosed materials in order and will let us hear from you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Katie Blount
State Historic Preservation Officer

By: Jennifer V.O. Baughn
Chief Architectural Historian