

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

STATE: <b>Virginia</b>
COUNTY: <b>Richmond (Ind. City)</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)**  
(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Museum of the Confederacy**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**White House of the Confederacy (Dr. John Brockenbrough House)**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Clay and 12th Streets**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Richmond**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**third**

STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **23219** COUNTY: **Richmond (ind. city)** CODE: **760**

**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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Confederate Memorial Literary Society**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Clay and 12th Streets**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Richmond**

STATE:  
**Virginia** CODE: **23219**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**City Hall**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Clay and 12th Streets**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Richmond**

STATE:  
**Virginia** CODE: **23219**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1937**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress/Annex**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Prints and Photographs Division**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington**

STATE:  
**D.C.** CODE: **11**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Virginia**  
COUNTY: **Richmond**  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE  
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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The White House of the Confederacy is an angular white stuccoed-brick house with a shallow, flat-roofed portico in Roman-Doric style. A small cupola stands rather incongruously in the center of the roof. It was built in 1818 by Robert Mills, one of his few designs in Richmond. Its original lines were altered in 1844 by a third-story addition.

Known as the Brockenborough Mansion, it was bought and furnished by the Confederacy as a 'worthy White House' for the Davis family. In 1893 the house was saved from ruin by the Confederate Memorial Literary Society. It is now in use as a Confederate museum, containing, among other memorabilia, Robert E. Lee's sword, the Great Seal and the original provisional constitution of the Confederacy, Stonewall Jackson's sword and cap, and the military equipment of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston and Gen. J. E. B. Stuart. The building is structurally sound, but in great need of surface repairs.

At present, there are plans under way for major construction and restoration on the White House property. The Confederate Memorial Literary Society is building a new, 30,000 square foot, four-level poured concrete building southeast of the historic structure and on the same city block. Two of the levels will be below ground; it will be square, with a wing reaching nearly to 12th Street, unless costs preclude its construction. There will be a two-story glass wall facing the garden and original building; long vertical inset panels, a prominent motif on the present museum, will be repeated on the new one. The new building will be lower than the old White House, smaller in scale, and will not touch it at any point. The museum collections and most of its operations will be transferred to the new building, due to be completed in late 1976. The older building will be restored as accurately as possible to the condition it was in during the Civil War. From 1878 through 1893 the house was used as a school; extensive reinforcement of the interior in 1894-1895 resulted in the loss of many original walls, so that the restoration must necessarily be approximate. Many original Davis pieces remain in museum hands; the rest of the furnishing will be with contemporary pieces. The restoration is being done with the aid of a consultant grant from the National Trust, but the bulk of funding has been through the society's private soliciting. A matching grant from the Interior Department is still pending (November 1974).

Boundaries

The boundaries include all the property owned by the Confederate Memorial Literary Society, on the block surrounded by 12th, Clay, and Marshall Streets, and a dirt path to the east. The property lines are described on the accompanying map C-1, labelled "Museum of the Confederacy" and dated May 6, 1974.

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**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) **1861-1865**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The White House of the Confederacy served as Executive Mansion for the Seceding States 1861-65. President Jefferson Davis and his family lived here throughout their residence in Richmond. Many of the decisions which were critical in determining the course of the war were undoubtedly made here.

Biography

Jefferson Davis (1808-1889), U.S. statesman and only president of the Confederate States of America, lived in the Richmond White House from 1862 until the end of the Civil War.

Davis was a reluctant secessionist who nevertheless resigned his Senate seat to accept the Confederate presidency in February 1862. Negotiations for peaceful separation were proposed but never begun; on April 13, the bombardment of Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor initiated hostilities.

The Confederate states were in poor condition to withstand invasion. Their white population was one-fourth that of the Union states; they had no navy, no powder mill, and an industrial capacity a fraction that of the North's. Davis was very energetic in his efforts to create factories, restore naval yards, and purchase arms and ammunition from abroad. Most important were his attempts at gaining diplomatic support from France and England. Davis hoped that their need for cotton would induce them to recognize Confederate independence, if not actually join in a military alliance. The repulse of the Confederate army at Antietam in August 1862, provided President Lincoln with the opportunity for issuing his Emancipation Proclamation. The transformation of the war from one fought for the Union into one fought for "freedom" foreclosed any possibility of foreign intervention.

Davis' only other hope for achieving Southern independence was to maintain the Confederacy as a functioning economic and military force until the presidential election of 1864. George MacClellan, a war hero and peace candidate, was opposing Lincoln on the Democratic ticket. When the Union General W. T. Sherman routed the defending Confederate army and entered Atlanta September 1, 1864, Lincoln's reelection was assured. On April 9, 1865, Lee's Army of Northern Virginia surrendered at Appomattox. Davis planned to continue resistance from west of the Mississippi, but was

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bill, Alfred H., The Beleaguered City, Richmond 1861-1865 (New York, 1946)  
 Scott, Mary W., Houses of Old Richmond (Richmond, 1941)  
 Virginia Writer's Project, Virginia: A Guide to the Old Dominion (New York, 1940)

**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		<del>XXXXXXXX</del>	<del>XXXXXXXX</del>	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

UTM  
18.285330, 4157430

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Stephen Lissandrello, Historian, Landmarks Review Project

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service      DATE: 2/8/75

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: D.C.      CODE: 11

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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

((NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS))

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

((NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS))

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

((NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS))

Landmark Designated: \_\_\_\_\_ date: 12/1/70

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

((NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS))

Boundary Certified: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chief, Dist. & Arch. Surveys

Boundary Affirmed: \_\_\_\_\_ date: 9/15/75

Keeper of The National Register

Director, OAHF date: \_\_\_\_\_

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

White House of the Confederacy

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

CONTINUATION SHEET

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captured near Irwinville, Georgia, on May 10, 1865.

Davis as President was far too prone to involve himself in the finer points of military strategy; his interference contributed to several decisive Confederate defeats. But he was the only Confederate statesman of sufficient stature to hold a loose amalgam of semi-independent states together through four years of total war.. It is doubtful whether any other man in the South possessed the strength, integrity, and experience necessary to begin a new nation and, simultaneously, wage war with one of the great military powers in the world at that time. After the war, Davis became a symbol of Southern pride. Sen. John Daniel of Virginia wrote in 1890: "Had a man less sober-minded and less strong than Davis been in his place the Confederacy would not only have gone down in material ruin--it would have been buried in disgrace." Davis died December 6, 1889, and was buried in Richmond, Virginia.