# National Register of Historic Places

## Inventory - Nomination Form

### 1. Name

**Ralph B. Small, Jr.**

**Street and Number:** 156 Rogers Avenue

**City or Town:** Macon

**State:** Georgia

### 2. Location

**Street and Number:** 156 Rogers Avenue

**City or Town:** Macon

**State:** Georgia

### 3. Classification

**Category:** District

**Ownership:** Public

**Status:** Occupied

**Accessible to the Public:** Yes

### 4. Owner of Property

**Owners Name:** Ralph B. Small, Jr.

**Street and Number:** 156 Rogers Avenue

**City or Town:** Macon

**State:** Georgia

### 5. Location of Legal Description

**Courthouse, Registry of Deeds, etc.:** Bibb County Courthouse

**Street and Number:**

**City or Town:** Macon

**State:** Georgia

### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

**Title of Survey:** I. The Historic Architecture of Macon by Carl Feiss and Russell Wright

**Date of Survey:** 1970

**Depositary for Survey Records:** Middle Georgia Historical Society

**Street and Number:** Macon Coliseum

**City or Town:** Macon

**State:** Georgia

**Approximate Acreage of Nominated Property:** less than 1 acre

### Notes

- Historical Survey by Middle Georgia Historical Society 1970
- HABS No. GA-III-11 Macon 5 1936 Federal
This distinguished example of Greek Revival domestic architecture in America was built in the late 1840's. Its ample site facing Vineville Avenue was at that time between the Brewer-Corbin House and the Monroe-Rogers-Goolsby House, and its distance from Vineville Avenue, not greatly different from what it is now. Approach to the house from the avenue on the South was through a long avenue of Cedars, reminiscent of "The Avenue" in Eatonton, where Skelton Napier lived before coming to the village of Vineville, and where he was married in 1820. In an article published in 1929, Mary Callaway Jones refers to its original foundation as "an elaborate brick basement of six rooms".

When Rogers Avenue and Corbin Avenue were opened, the land was subdivided, the house was turned to the East and now faces Rogers Avenue on a lot less adequate than it deserves. Deprived of its high basement and the enhancement it received from its former approach and entourage, it still retains its stately concept of design and detail.

In the lower South the Greek Revival temple-type house was usually built with a hexastyle portico on the principal facade, and a lowpitch hipped roof truncated with a small flat deck. The cornice of the portico usually continued around the main body of the house, but the remainder of the entablature (the frieze and architrave) is either terminated or modified where the portico joins the main body of the structure. In all these things, the Napier-Small House is typical.

Two features set it apart from the rest. The entablature of its five-bay portico is supported on four fluted columns of the Greek Doric Order, set in antis between square columns, or antae, at either corner. There are many examples of columns in antis here and elsewhere in America; the usage dates back to Greek antiquity where the lateral walls of a temple were sometimes extended to enclose the ends of the portico. The term is generally applied to loggias recessed in the facade, or to the enframement of important doorways. There appears to be no direct precedent, in antiquity or in Greek Revival, for this example of an order used in antis for a pro-style temple type portico.

The other distinctive feature - a low wood parapet with exquisitely carved acroteria, surmounted above the entablature as a gallery or corona - is not novel, for it was in frequent usage. Seldom has it been executed as well, and used as effectively as in this example. The restrained ornamentation of this crowning sculpture in wood is a satisfying response to the theme set by the laurel wreaths of the frieze and at the same time a kind of counter-point to the baldness of the antae which terminate the colonade.

The parapet which supported the acroteria has weathered away, but we are told the carvings are in good condition in the attic, begging for restoration. The small panes of glass in the sidelights and transom of the front entrance obviously do not belong to the period. The turnings in the brackets supporting balcony over front door appear to relate more to the period when the house was re-located, than to the period in which it was built.
**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD. (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

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

**SPECIFIC DATE(S): (If Applicable and Known)** 1846

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- Aboriginal
- Prehistoric
- Historic
- Agriculture
- Art
- Commerce
- Communications
- Conservation
- Education
- Engineering
- Industry
- Invention
- Literature
- Military
- Music
- Natural History
- Political
- Religion/Philosophy
- Social/Humanitarian
- Science
- Sculpture
- Theater
- Transportation
- Urban Planning

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

This is considered one of the outstanding Greek Revival houses in Macon and this area. It is included in the HABS records of 1936 and is written up in many publications.

This white frame house of Greek Revival style was built in 1846 by Skelton Napier. According to Talbot Hamlin in his book "Greek Revival Architecture in America," it well could have been designed by the noted New England architect, Elias Carter. This house is used to illustrate the great variety of detail possible in the classic pattern by Mr. Hamlin and by Howard Major in his book, "The Domestic Architecture of the Early American Republic." Noteworthy is the fact that this is the only old house in Macon with a pedimented parapet topping three sides of the roof, and finished at the corners and in the center with anthemion.

The original lot was purchased in November, 1846, by Skelton Napier of Putnam County, Georgia, brother of Colonel Leroy Napier, great contributor to the Confederacy. The house was constructed facing Vineville Avenue, approached through a double avenue of cedars. But, like several other old Macon homes, it was turned to face Rogers Avenue in adjusting itself to the city's growth.

Ralph Small, Jr. owns the house, and until recently it served as the studio for his interior decorating service, as well as his residence.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hamlin, Talbot. Greek Revival Architecture in America.


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>32° 50' 50&quot;</td>
<td>83° 39' 22&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>SE</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32° 50' 50&quot;</td>
<td>83° 39' 22&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
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NAME AND TITLE:

Mr. John J. McKay, Jr., President
Middle Georgia Historical Society, Inc.
March 23, 1971

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 [ ]

Name: Mary Gregory Earnest
Title: State Liaison Officer
Date: April 19, 1971

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
MAY 27 1971

ATTEST:
Keeper of the National Register
MAR 19 1971
**National Register of Historic Places**

**Property Map Form**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>1. NAME</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMMON:</strong></td>
<td>Ralph Small Place</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AND/OR HISTORIC:</strong></td>
<td>Napier-Small House</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>2. LOCATION</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>STREET AND NUMBER:</strong></td>
<td>156 Rogers Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CITY OR TOWN:</strong></td>
<td>Macon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STATE:</strong></td>
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</tr>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>3. MAP REFERENCE</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SOURCE:</strong></td>
<td>Geological Survey, Control by USGS, USC&amp;GS, and Georgia Geodetic Survey</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SCALE:</strong></td>
<td>1&quot; = 2,000'</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DATE:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Property boundaries where required.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. North arrow.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Latitude and longitude reference.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Georgia Geodetic Survey
Topography from aerial photographs by Kelsh plotter
Aerial photographs taken 1954. Field check, 1956
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Georgia coordinate system, west zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

MAGNOLIA

Latitude - 32° 50' - 50''
Longitude - 83° 39' - 22''

Scale: 1'' = 2,000'

DECLINATION, 1958