

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Longwood

AND/OR COMMON

Longwood or Nutt's Folly

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER 1.5 miles southeast of Natchez

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

 VICINITY OF

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

28

COUNTY

Adams

CODE

001

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**

\_\_\_ DISTRICT

 BUILDING(S)

\_\_\_ STRUCTURE

\_\_\_ SITE

\_\_\_ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

\_\_\_ PUBLIC

 PRIVATE

\_\_\_ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

\_\_\_ IN PROCESS

\_\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS** OCCUPIED

\_\_\_ UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_ YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_ NO

**PRESENT USE**

\_\_\_ AGRICULTURE

 MUSEUM

\_\_\_ COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_ PARK

\_\_\_ EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_ RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_ GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_ MILITARY

\_\_\_ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Pilgrimage Garden Club

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Stanton Hall

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE, ADAMS COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET &amp; NUMBER

State and Market Streets

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

STATE

Mississippi

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1936

 FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress/Annex

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Longwood is an eight-sided brick structure two and one-half stories high over a full basement; the house is topped by a vast 16-sided lantern or cupola which is surmounted by a large onion-shaped "Moorish" dome. The scale of the building is immense: the structure is 37 feet long on a side or 296 feet in circumference and about 100 feet across the middle. The height of the basement is 9 feet, that of the first story, 14 feet; the second story is 12 feet high and the recessed third story or attic is 9 feet high. Round-arch windows are grouped in triplets on four projecting sides; those on the first floor open onto arcaded balconies. On the other alternating four sides there are doors flanked by round-arch windows, opening onto colonnaded covered galleries or verandas on both floors. These porches, between the four projecting sides and the balconies, are decorated with elaborately carved paired and grouped columns on pedestals, with arcaded and pierced railings between the pedestals. The two wide projecting cornices, one marking the top of the second story and the other the top of the recessed third story or attic, are both supported by heavy paired, sawn and carved Italianate brackets. Most of the exterior details of this woodwork, which is executed in cypress, are carved and sawn in a "Moorish" manner. The great domed lantern or cupola is also elaborately decorated in a similar manner with a railing, brackets, and 16 round-arch windows. The original specifications for the mansion called for the exterior brick walls to be rough-cast or stuccoed, and scored to look like stone, but except for the exterior basement walls and pillars on the east veranda, this plan was never carried out. The four proposed great stone and brick exterior stairways, with cast iron balusters and railings, that were to lead to the four first-story verandas, were also never built.

The house has a geometrical floor plan that is repeated on the basement, first, and second stories. There is a central octagon, or rotunda, 24 feet across on each of these floors. The rotundas are surrounded by four octagonal-shaped rooms, each measuring 20 by 34 feet. On the diagonals beyond the four octagonal rooms, four rectangular rooms, each measuring 18 by 24 feet, project to flank the first and second-story covered verandas, each measuring 13 by 45 feet, onto which the octagonal rooms open. Each of the first-floor rectangular rooms opens onto an arcaded balcony. The attic, or third floor, was to contain a central rotunda 24 by 24 feet and four rectangular rooms, each measuring 21 by 24 feet. The rotundas in the second and third stories were to be open to the dome, with galleries around circular openings on each of these two upper levels. The basement rotunda was to have been lighted by thick glass inserts in the first floor and by door transoms.

The interior partitions are constructed of brick, up to and including the second story. On the third floor the original specifications for the inner brick walls were changed by Nutt, and lath and plaster walls substituted in their place. The inner walls and the ceilings throughout the house were

(Continued)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1860-62

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Samuel Sloan

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Designed by the noted Philadelphia architect, Samuel Sloan, and constructed in 1860-62, Longwood is the largest and most elaborate of the octagon houses built in the United States. Longwood is also one of the finest surviving examples of an Oriental Revival style residence which along with Olana, a Persian villa designed by R. M. Hunt for Frederick Church and built in 1870-72 near Hudson, New York, illustrates the exotic phase of architectural romanticism that flourished in mid-19th century America. Longwood is interesting as an earlier, less academically detailed version of the Moslem Revival which uniquely combines stylistic eclecticism of both Moslem and Italianate, with the octagonal form first fostered by the phrenologist and amateur architectural theorist Orson Squire Fowler. Although never completed on the interior, the fine detailing of the exterior has survived in an amazing state of preservation. When the document of the building itself is combined with the papers of its owner, Haller Nutt, and of its architect, Samuel Sloan, an unusually complete insight is gained into the architectural theory of the period as well as the creative process involved in a unique and beautiful work of art.

## HISTORY

The octagonal fad that was popular throughout the United States during the 1850's was launched by Orson S. Fowler, whose book, A Home For All; Or, The Gravel Wall and Octagon Mode of Building, was first published in 1848 and had eight subsequent editions. Fowler's writings praised the utility and cheapness of the octagon form which led to its use by other builders on a wide scale. The genesis of Longwood appears to have been "An Oriental Villa, Design Forty-Ninth," a plan for an octagonal Moslem Revival house, which was published in 1852 by Samuel Sloan in Volume II of his The Model Architect. Dr. Haller Nutt, a wealthy cotton planter of Natchez, Mississippi, who was familiar with Sloan's book, engaged the Philadelphia architect in 1859 to prepare plans for an enlarged and improved version of the 1852 octagonal Moslem Revival Residence. Plans for the much enlarged mansion were begun by Sloan in 1859 and completed by April 9, 1860; the architect estimated that Nutt could move into his fine new house by May 1, 1861.

Using his Negro slaves, Nutt began the preliminary construction in February and by the end of April 1860, had demolished the old plantation house and excavated the foundation and basement; and, working under the supervision of Baugh and Fox, his hands also made the bricks.

(Continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuance Sheet)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 86.07

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	6 5,1 7,7,0	3 4 9,0 2,7,0	B	1 5	6 5,1 7,0,0	3 4 8,9 6,8,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1 5	6 5,1 1,5,0	3 4 8,9 7,2,0	D	1 5	6 5,1 2,1,0	3 4 9,0 3,2,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of Longwood encompasses all of the property owned by The Pilgrimage Garden Club, 86.07 acres, and includes all buildings on the property in the landmark (house, old kitchen, privy, slave quarters and carriage house) as shown in the enclosed Map of the Survey of Longwood dated January, 1970.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Patricia Heintzleman, Architectural Historian, Landmark Review Project

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

5/30/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20240

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL     

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

TITLE

DATE

Landmark Designated: Dec 16, 1966  
 Boundary Certified: 2/15/77  
 date

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*

DATE

2/15/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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to be plastered, but except in the basement story, this plan was never executed. The four great brick chimneys of the house are located near the four corners of the central rotunda, and each chimney contains fireplaces on each floor so that each of the 32 rooms has its own fireplace. All of the fireplaces above the basement level, however, were bricked up in 1862 and have never been completed or used. In the alcoves between the doors opening on the rotundas were built rounded recessed niches that were intended to hold statuary.

The floors of the house, above the basement story, were to be of "heart pine," but were never installed. In the basement, the entrance hall and rotunda floors were laid with "marble filings" and the remainder with slate set on a bed of concrete. Seven of the eight basement fireplaces are equipped with elaborate marble mantels that were made in Philadelphia in 1861 and intended for installations on the first floor. These were received after the Civil War and placed in their present locations.

From the first floor up through the third, the house is still a vast, empty, and unfinished shell, just as the workmen left it in 1861. Joists and rafters are in place, together with "temporary" wooden stairs and planking so that the workmen could move about to reach their work. The windows on these levels are still generally boarded up, as in 1861, to keep out the weather. One second-floor room also still contains the mixing equipment of workmen--apparently left in place since construction stopped on the mansion. Although there has been some rot in the exterior woodwork, the house is generally in very good condition. The exterior woodwork has received a coat of paint--probably its first since 1861. The roofs of the house, including the dome, are still covered with the original tin laid in 1861. The basement floor of the mansion is open to visitors as an historic house museum. The second level is also open, providing the visitor with a rare opportunity to view a mid-19th-century house under construction.

Also located on the estate are the five following historic structures:

1. The Necessary. This square one-story brick building is located a short distance to the southwest of the mansion. Built in 1860-61, the structure is in good condition.

(Continued)

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2. The Kitchen. This one-story frame building with a huge brick fireplace is located a short distance to the northwest (or rear) of the mansion. This structure was erected in 1860-61 and is in fair condition. The two-story brick kitchen, planned by Sloan for the new mansion, was never constructed. This building is used today for storage.

3. Slave's Quarters. This handsome brick house is located about 100 feet northwest of the mansion and from structural evidence is earlier than Longwood, possibly dating from about 1830 or earlier. It was probably improved in 1860-61. The building is a long rectangular structure with a full and finished basement, two finished upper stories, and a large and unfinished attic. The house has a two-story wooden veranda extending the full length of its east or front elevation and also formerly had a rear veranda. The interior of the Servants' Quarters is in poor condition.

4. The Carriage House. This one-story frame building is located some distance north of the Servants' Quarters and is in very poor condition.

5. The Stables. This one-story frame structure was located north of the Carriage House but is no longer there.

The site of the geometrically-patterned gardens, which in 1860-73 occupied 15 acres of land, is located at some distance to the southeast of the mansion and near the entrance to the estate. Completely overgrown, there are no visible surface signs of the former gardens. At a considerable distance to the southwest of the mansion is situated the cemetery of the Nutt family, which is maintained in good condition.

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Addison Hutton of Philadelphia, the superintendent of construction, arrived at Natchez on May 2. Shortly thereafter four expert Philadelphia bricklayers arrived to work with the slaves in erecting the walls of the mansion. The master carpenter, a Mr. Smith of Philadelphia, arrived at Longwood in September; and after Hutton's departure in October, Smith served until September 1861 as the superintendent of construction.

The brick work of the mansion was completed in March 1861 and, with the secession storm brewing, the four Philadelphia bricklayers found it necessary to depart. Work on the roof and dome, however, continued under the supervision of Mr. Smith. In May 1861, Sloan had preliminary work begun in Philadelphia on the production of the blinds, sash, and doors. He also worked out the final details for the interior doors and staircases, and also for the proposed separate two-story brick kitchen.

After considerable difficulty, in August 1861, Sloan finally secured the services of Jacob Walters, a tinner of Philadelphia, and sent him to Natchez to install the roof on Longwood. By the end of September the mansion was complete on the exterior, except for the rough-casting or stuccoing of the exterior brickwork, the installation of the exterior stairs, and the glazing in of some of the windows in the upper stories. At this time, due to the war, Smith and Walters found it necessary to leave, and construction on Longwood came to a halt. Between February and July 1862, using his own slaves, Nutt finished off the eight-room basement level. The interior walls were plastered and the present floor was installed. The Nutt family then moved into this completed section of the mansion.

In the fall of 1863 the Union armies devastated Haller Nutt's Louisiana plantations, causing him a loss of \$1,020,540.07. On Nutt's death in June 1864, a ruined man, he left a widow and eight children. Because Nutt was a recognized and strong supporter of the Union cause, his heirs, between 1866 and 1911, were eventually able to collect a total of \$188,269.66 as partial compensation from the United States Government for Nutt's Civil War losses.

Longwood, never completed on the interior above the basement level, and its 87 acres of land remained in the possession of the Nutt family until 1968. The mansion was used during this period as a residence. In August 1968, Longwood and 94 acres of land were acquired by Mr. and Mrs. Kelly McAdams of Austin, Texas. In December 1968, they donated the estate to the McAdams Foundation of Austin, Texas, which in turn sold it to the Pilgrimage Garden Club of Natchez, Mississippi in 1970.

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