

NR 7-14-78

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
The McDonald-Wait-Newton House
AND/OR COMMON
The Packet House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1406 Cantrell Road
CITY, TOWN
Little Rock
STATE
Arkansas
VICINITY OF
Second
COUNTY
Pulaski
CODE
05
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Second
CODE
119
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input 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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
James B. McDougal and Jack D. Files
STREET & NUMBER
816 North University Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Little Rock
STATE
Arkansas
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
Circuit Clerk's Office
STREET & NUMBER
Pulaski County Courthouse
CITY, TOWN
Little Rock
STATE
Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

The Wait-Newton House, a second Empire styled house, is rectangular in plan with a central projection on the south (front) facade, a projection on the west, and two projecting bays on the east. The first east bay is rectangular with twin two over two, rectangular windows; while the second is elliptical with semi-circular topped windows, faced with stone beginning at the top of the stone impost.

The shingled roof is a high mansard with 12 segmental dormers.

The south projection contains the main entry, a small interior porch framed in a Roman arch. The porch is decorated in panels and colonnettes.

The double doors have single elliptical topped lights and panels below. The transom is semi-circular.

Above the entrance are twin windows with elliptical hood-moulds. Windows on the building proper are two over two double hung and have straight hood moulds.

Originally, the structure had a bracketed cornice and roof cresting. The roof finish was slate. A porch starting at the entrance bay ran along the front of the building and terminated at the southeast corner. The present owners intend to replace these missing parts.

The entrance hall is wide and has a stair with rosewood baluster leading to the second floor. The original interior shutters are still in place.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Built 1869 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Alexander McDonald

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The historic Packet House, located at 1406 Cantrell Road in Little Rock, overlooks what is now one of the busiest thoroughfares in the city. In 1869, at the time the house was constructed, Cantrell Road, then known as Lincoln Avenue as named by the men who first built dwellings there, was considered quite a distance from Little Rock. The men who constructed dwellings on this road had all either been associated with the north during the Civil War or had come into the area during the Reconstruction period. The slight hill on which the Packet House rests is where several large, expensive structures were built using the cheap labor of the defeated South. Therefore, Lincoln Avenue was somewhat less than affectionately called "Rober's Row" or "Carpetbagger's Row" for many years. The Packet House is the oldest of five brick homes built shortly after the Civil War on the north side of Lincoln Avenue and is the only remaining structure of the original "Carpetbagger's Row" Mansions.

Architecturally, the Packet House is significant in its example of Second Empire Style. Buildings of the Second Empire Style are generally tall, boldly modeled and three-dimensional in effect. The Packet House is a tall, two and one-half story brick structure with a mansard roof. Many of the original features of the house remain intact, such as interior window shutters.

The Packet House was built in 1869 by Alexander McDonald. McDonald was living in Kansas when the war broke out. He took a leading role in the raising of troops for the Union Army, and for a time supported three regiments at his own expense. Mr. McDonald first came to Little Rock as a Union soldier during the War and later returned to make it his home. He was only in his early thirties when he built the Packet House. He was a member of the State Constitutional Convention of 1868 and a United States Senator from Arkansas from 1868-1871. He was commissioned by President Arthur to examine conditions of the Railroads, and was a delegate to the National Republican Convention of 1888 which nominated Benjamin Harrison for President. Senator McDonald was considered the richest man in the state of Arkansas. He established and was president of a bank at Ft. Smith, Arkansas. He was president of Merchants National Bank in Little Rock, which later became what is now 1st National Bank of Little Rock. Senator McDonald was defeated in his bid for re-election in 1871, sold his home and left the state.

Next to buy the Packet House was Mr. William B. Wait. Mr. Wait moved to Arkansas Post in 1830 from Knoxville, Tennessee, where he entered the merchandising business as a clerk in Colonel Notrebe's store. He later began his own dealings in Real Estate Auctions and Exchange. He, like Senator McDonald, was president of Merchant's National Bank and an officer in the bank presently known as 1st National Bank. The Waits were known for their "At Home" Days, musicals and whist parties, and entertained

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

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often. They built a stage in the Packet House stable loft where theatricals were frequently presented.

The next owner was Mrs. Jacob Reider who was the daughter of Archibald McHenry, builder of the Stage Coach House on the old Hot Springs Highway. That house, which is on the National Register, was built in 1830, making it one of the oldest houses in Arkansas. Ann McHenry Reider and her two daughters and their families moved to 1406 Lincoln Avenue in 1887. The two daughters had married brothers, Tom and Robert Newton. It was the Newton Family Home through four generations until it was sold in 1946.

Upon the sale of the Packet House in 1946 to Mr. and Mrs. Latane Temple and Frank Campbell, it was converted into twelve apartments. The Temples named the structure the Packet House because it overlooked the river once plied by packet boats to which government papers and mail were entrusted.

The Packet House has recently been purchased by two businessmen who recognize the aesthetic as well as economic advantage to be derived in preservation of the house. A thorough restoration is being undertaken, complete in detailing to the replacement of the original porch. The owners plan to utilize the house for office space.

The Packet House is the only representative of the elegant dwellings constructed on Lincoln Avenue shortly after the Civil War. With great pride, the citizens of Little Rock, as they drive along the busy thoroughfare, are seeing the Packet House being restored to its original appearance. Resting regally on its original location, the Packet House stands out as an architectural and historical landmark in Little Rock.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

United States Senate Chamber 1870
 Arkansas Gazette: March 24, 1946; February 18, 1892.
 Arkansas Democrat: December 13, 1970; February 19, 1971.
 Encyclopedia of the New West, p. 191
 Quapaw Quarter Chronicle, p. 5; November, 1970.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Susan McDougal and Frezil Miller

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

STREET & NUMBER

Suite 500, Continental Bldg., Main at Markham

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

DATE

September, 1977

TELEPHONE

501-371-2763

STATE

Arkansas

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

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

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM



Suite 500, Continental Building, Main and Markham
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 Telephone: (501) 371-2763

August 5, 1977

Mr. and Mrs. James McDougal
1800 Shadow Lane
Little Rock, AR 72207

Re: Packet House
Little Rock, Pulaski County

Dear Mr. and Mrs. McDougal:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is preparing a National Register nomination for the Packet House which will be presented to the Arkansas State Review Committee at their September meeting. If approved, the nomination will be submitted to the National Register office in Washington for final consideration.

The National Register of Historic Places is a listing of historic sites, buildings, objects and districts from all across the country that are worthy of preservation.

Entry in the National Register is an honor which places no obligation on a private owner. It does, however, provide protection through comment by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation from federally financed, assisted or licensed projects that might affect a National Register property.

On October 4, 1976, the President signed a Tax Reform Act of which Section 2124 refers to tax incentives for historic properties. Enclosed you will find an information sheet on that tax act.

If you have any questions concerning the program or this property's nomination, please contact Sandra Taylor of our staff.

Enclosed are two copies of this letter. Please complete the form below, sign and return the original to our office. The copy is for your files. We would appreciate receiving any comments you might have concerning the nomination of this property. If we do not hear from you within 30 days, your approval will be assumed.

Sincerely,

Barbara Woodard
Barbara Woodard, Deputy Director
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

I approve of the nomination of the above property
to the National Register of Historic Places.

 X
Yes No

Comments:

8-15-77
Date

James B. McDougal
Signature

