

# VILLA LAMAR NR FORM

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HISTORIC RESOURCES OF WEST PACES FERRY ROAD  
ATLANTA, FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA.

## INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY H

### 1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: VILLA LAMAR

OTHER NAMES: HOLLYWOOD; NEWCASTLE; REUBEN GARLAND HOUSE

### 2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 801 WEST PACES FERRY ROAD

CITY: ATLANTA

STATE: GA (Code: GA)

COUNTY: Fulton (Code: GA 121)

ZIP CODE: 30327

PRESENT OWNER: MRS. REUBEN GARLAND

MAILING ADDRESS: 801 WEST PACES FERRY ROAD N.W.

CITY: ATLANTA

STATE: GEORGIA

ZIP CODE: 30327

n/a not for publication

n/a vicinity

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property:  private

Category of Property:  buildings

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing:	
1	0	buildings
		<hr/>
1	0	total

Number previously listed on National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of  
West Paces Ferry Road

4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Elizabeth A. Lynn  
Signature of certifying official

4/20/88  
date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Historic Preservation Section, GA Dept. of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

6. FUNCTION or USE

Historic Functions...  
DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

Current Functions...  
DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:  
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/ Italian Renaissance

MATERIALS:

foundation: unknown

walls: brick

roof: tile

other: stucco

Describe present and historical physical appearance:

The Villa Lamar is a large, two-story, cream-colored, stuccoed house, built in a rectangular shape, with full basement and attic and a red tile roof, on a large corner lot. Built in the Italian Renaissance style, it has a two-story exterior entrance loggia in the Palladian style, as well as a two-story interior entrance hall. The main staircase is only on one side of the entrance hall and leads to the balcony. The bedrooms on the second floor are entered from the balcony overlooking this hall. There is a large attic room and a corridor of five servants rooms on the top floor. The first floor includes various wood treatments and large, spacious rooms designed for entertaining. From west to east these rooms are: dining room, living room, music room, on the north side, flanked by the breakfast room and small kitchen, entrance hall and library on the south side. The basement contains the original large kitchen and other service and equipment rooms. There are terraces and pergolas on all sides. The grounds include an English boxwood garden at the rear. There is a solarium on the east side and a porte cochere on the west side, but no outbuildings. The house was built on a knoll facing a major road on the south, with a suburb entrance road on the west. Most of the surrounding property is residential. There is a large heavily-treed area between the house and the two roads, and an entrance driveway, but no lawn. Changes have been minimal, and the house is now undergoing restoration. Originally, when the property contained much larger grounds, there was a flower garden, and other landscape features to the west of the house. This was destroyed when the property was subdivided in 1958.

#### 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Areas of Significance:    Periods of Significance:    Signif. Dates:

architecture

1911-1912

1911-1912

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Significant Person: n/a

ORIGINAL OWNER: William Bailey Lamar and Ethel Toy Lamar  
ORIGINAL USE: residence  
ARCHITECT: GEORGE O. TOTTEN, JR. OF WASHINGTON, D.C.  
BUILDER: NICHOLAS ITTNER OF ATLANTA, GA.  
HISTORIC ACREAGE: approximately 200 acres  
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1911-1912  
DATE OF ALTERATIONS: no major alterations

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: The Villa Lamar is significant in architecture because it is among the finest examples in Georgia of the use of the Italian Renaissance style, exemplified in the use of marble, mosaic tile, a tile roof, the Palladian style entrance loggia, and overall massing of the building. It is also significant as the only known work in Georgia of a nationally-known architect from Washington, D. C., George O. Totten, Jr. (1865-1939). Totten studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris from 1893 to 1895. His post-educational training included working for the U. S. government, assisting in designing many monumental buildings. He also worked for awhile with the Prime Minister of Turkey and the Sultan. With such a background, he came to be known for designing houses of monumental proportions. Many houses he designed in Washington were either designed for, or later became, foreign embassies, signifying their significance and imposing nature. This house could easily serve a similar purpose due to its grand nature and floor plan.

The house may be significant in landscape architecture because the original landscape plan was designed by the firm of Meehan and Sons of Philadelphia. In 1911, it was announced that this plan was to incorporate a knoll on which the house was placed, 500 feet from the road, where the house could only be glimpsed from the road. The gently sloping land at the rear of the house was used for "Italian gardens at different levels, with their terrace walls and garden steps..." surrounded by stately pines just like in Italy. Today, the boxwood garden remains as a descendant of this original plan. An assessment of the property's landscape architecture significance has not yet been made due to insufficient analysis of the firm's work in Atlanta and in Georgia as well as comparisons between this property and other large estates whose grounds were landscaped during the same era.

The Villa Lamar meets National Register Criteria C--possess high artistic value or the work of a master--because it is the work of George O. Totten, Jr., a well-known architect from Washington, D.C. known for his many monumental houses and embassies in the capital city, and for few outside of that area. The house is one of the finest ever designed and built in Georgia to reflect the Italian Renaissance style. It embodies the recessed entrance loggia, grand stair hall, large rooms laid out for entertainment, a tile roof, and an imposing setting, all reminiscent of an Italian setting and construction.

The period of significance of 1911-1912 was selected because it was during this period of time that the house was built.

Architecture was selected as the only area of significance because it is known to be the work of a master in the field, while the owners/occupants of the house--Lamar and McDaniel--were not in themselves significant enough persons, nor were their wives, to justify another area of significance, given the amount of information known about them and their life/role in this house.

#### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT):

The Villa Lamar was built in 1911-1912 for William Bailey Lamar (1853-1928) and his wife Ethel Toy. Prior to their moving to Atlanta by 1911, Lamar, a Florida native, had served his native state as State Attorney General (1888-1904) and as a U. S. Congressman from 1903 to 1909. He did not seek renomination and moved to Atlanta. He had married Ethel Toy Healey, widow of Charles A. Healey, member of a prominent Atlanta family, in 1904. It was Mrs. Lamar who actually bought the original fourteen acre tract in 1910-1911, and added to the tract until, by 1913, she had acquired around 200 acres. Plans for the construction of the "Villa Lamar" and an architect's rendering appeared in the "Atlanta Constitution" on May 4, 1911. This was at the same time that both the Tuxedo Park Subdivision and the Peachtree Heights Park subdivisions were being announced for lot sales within the proposed West Paces Ferry Road Multiple Resource Area. The Villa Lamar was about two miles further west on West Paces Ferry Road than the Tuxedo Park Subdivision.

Due to a sudden change in plans, the Lamars left Atlanta by 1914 and returned to Washington, D. C. While they gave their Atlanta home the name "Villa Lamar", it is generally understood by relatives that they never even moved in, and the house was never officially known by that name. The motive for their return to the nation's capital, where they had many friends, is not clear, but it is known that the only official position Judge Lamar held after leaving Atlanta was that of national commissioner to the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco in 1915, where they lived for the year of the fair. Afterwards, he is said to have "retired from public life". Their home in Washington was known as the "Villa Rosa" and the scene of much entertainment. Judge Lamar died at his winter home, the Columns, in Thomasville, Georgia in 1928. After her husband's death, Ethel Toy Lamar sold the Washington and Thomasville properties and returned to Atlanta to live with her brother and his family (at their house in Ansley Park) until her death in 1949. She was well known for her social position within the city and was active on many boards.

The architect chosen to design the Villa Lamar, George O. Totten, Jr. (1865-1939), was well known for his works in the nation's capital. He trained at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris from 1893 to 1895, and worked for the U. S. government for several years during the era when the government was erecting

monumental government buildings, such as post offices. In private practice, he worked for awhile in Turkey, both for the Prime Minister and the Sultan, and was offered the position of "private architect to the Sultan of Turkey", which he accepted, but was unable to fulfil due to and overthrow of the government in 1909. Totten served as the U. S. delegate to the International Congress of Architects which met in several foreign cities, and in 1911 they met in Rome. One of his biographical sketches sums up the type of buildings he was known for in this manner: "He was the architect for many public buildings in the city (Washington, D. C.) and drew the plans for ten legation and embassy buildings." Another source indicated that he built over a dozen residences in the 16th Street area of Washington for Mrs. John B. Henderson to be used as embassies or legations. Thus it is no wonder that the Villa Lamar gives the appearance of being an embassy or some other "official" residence.

According to the official announcement of the house being under construction, the landscape plan was being prepared by Meehan and Sons of Philadelphia. It is not clear whether all of this plan was implemented and survives today.

On August 11, 1914, the property was officially sold to Mrs. Anne Henderson McDaniel (1870-1939), wife of Sanders McDaniel (1867 - 1934), an attorney. McDaniel was the only son of former Georgia Governor Henry McDaniel (1836-1926), who had served Georgia in the 1880s. McDaniel had lived in Monroe, Georgia, the home of his parents, until 1895, when he married and moved to Atlanta. He served as a corporate attorney for some of the largest corporations in Atlanta, on the University of Georgia's Board of Trustees (now the Board of Regents), and was a member of several major social clubs in Atlanta. While he lived here, McDaniel was president of the Atlanta Bar Association. His wife's sister was married to the Chancellor of Vanderbilt University.

The McDaniels' only child, Harriet, had married Rembert Marshall (1892- 1957), an attorney, in 1921. Their wedding took place in the formal living room in front of the marble mantel with the reception being held there as well. They moved to Nashville, but returned within a few years to Atlanta where they moved into the house with her parents and it remained their home for over thirty years. Mr. Marshall, on his return to Atlanta, became a law partner of his father-in-law. The Marshalls were also members of the major social clubs in Atlanta, and he was on the Board of Trustees of Vanderbilt University, his alma mater. Mrs. Marshall was a president of the state-wide organization known as the Garden Clubs of Georgia, a charter member of the Junior League of Atlanta, and the first woman trustee for Young Harris College in north Georgia. In 1956 she was voted Woman of the Year in Atlanta for her civic involvement in music and garden club work. During the McDaniel/Marshall ownership the house is said to have been known as "Hollywood" and "Twin Oaks".

After Mr. Marshall's in 1957, the house and the estate were sold to the Paces Ferry Development Corporation, with Jack Adair, a member of a prominent real estate family, as president. This transaction in January, 1958, precipitated the development of the Kingswood Subdivision on the majority of the acreage.

Shortly after the Marshall estate was sold, Reuben Garland (1903-1983), a local attorney, heard about the sale and decided immediately to purchase the property. He bought it in April, 1958. Garland and his wife, the former Fauntleroy Moon, moved into the house and renamed it "Newcastle". It was the scene of many major social functions during their years there. Since Mr. Garland's death in 1983, Mrs. Fauntleroy Moon Garland has continued to live there.

#### 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Rembert Marshall", and "Reuben A. Garland" ATLANTA AND ENVIRONS VOLUME 3, New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1954, p. 125, 410.

Howell, Clark, ed. History of Georgia, Vol. 3., Sketch of "Sanders McDaniel" is on page 267. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1926.

"William Bailey Lamar", Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774 - 1949. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1950.

Garland, Mrs. Fauntleroy. Atlanta, Georgia. Interviews by Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., 1987.

Fulton County, Georgia. Probate Court. Wills and marriage records; Superior Court, deeds.

Toy, Roger B., Jr. (nephew of Mrs. Ethel Toy Lamar). Atlanta, Georgia. Interview by Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., 1987.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): n/a

Primary location of additional data:

x State historic preservation office

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: HISTORIC STRUCTURES FIELD SURVEY: FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA.

10. Geographical Data

acreage of property: 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES:

A	16	739360	3748370
	Zone	Easting	Northing

USGS Quadrangle: Northwest Atlanta, Georgia

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is that parcel designated 17-158-0003-57 on the Fulton County, Georgia Tax Maps, a portion of the one on which the property appears being enclosed, and marked.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property is all the historic acreage which remains associated with the house today. The remainder of the historic acreage has been developed.

11. FORM PREPARED BY:

NAME/TITLE: Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian  
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