

WILLIAM MACLAY MANSION
HARRISBURG, PA.

Drafting Co.

H.A.B.S. No. PA-310

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. PA-3

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Julian Millard, District Officer
2250 No. Third St., Harrisburg, Pa.

WILLIAM MACLAY MANSION

Front & South Streets
Harrisburg, Pa.

OWNER: W. E. Bailey Estate, Harrisburg.

DATE OF ERECTION: 1792.

ARCHITECT: Not known, if any.

BUILDER: Not known.

PRESENT CONDITION: Excellent, but much altered from original condition. Interior entirely remodeled and extensive additions made. Cornice is the original cornice. Walls are original. Window sashes and frames are new, but frames detailed like the old except for weight boxes. The stairway was removed and another stair was built elsewhere but detailed exactly like the old stair. The grade at the front was dropped 3 or 4 feet in early times. We know nothing of the original entrance. The photograph was taken in the 1870's. The extensive alterations and additions above referred to were made by Mr. M. I. Kast, Architect, in 1909.

NUMBER OF STORIES: Two and a half story.

MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION: Walls are of rough limestone; slate roof.

OTHER EXISTING RECORDS: Drawings by Mr. Kast and a photograph from the Dauphin County Historical Society.*

ADDITIONAL DATA: William Maclay was born July 20, 1737 in Chester County. In 1742 his father removed to Franklin County. When the French and Indian War broke out, he was at Rev. John Blair's classical school in Chester County. He was appointed Ensign in the Pennsylvania Battalion May 7, 1758, and accompanied Gen. Forbes' Expedition, especially distinguishing himself at the Battle of Loyalhanna. He was also in Bouquet's campaigns.

At the close of the French and Indian War, he visited England and had an interview with Thomas Penn relative to surveys in middle and northern parts of the Province. He was the assistant of Surveyor Lukens on the frontiers. In 1772 he laid out the town of Sunbury and became Prothonotary and Clerk of the Court of the newly organized Northumberland County. He also acted as representative of the Penn family.

At the outset of the Revolution, he took a prominent and active part in favor of independence, assisted in equipping and forwarding troops and marched with the associators at Trenton and Princeton. He was assistant Commissary of purchases during the Revolution.

* Also see picture in Egle's History of the Counties of Dauphin and Lebanon, p. 366.)

In 1781 he was elected to the Assembly and was a member of the Supreme Executive Council, Judge of the Courts of Common Pleas, etc. He again visited England, in the interest of the Penn family and in 1789 was elected to the United States Senate, the first Senator from Pennsylvania, serving until 1791, when he retired to his farm, lying within the present area of Harrisburg, where in the same year he erected a fine Stone Mansion.

In 1795 he was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and again in 1803. In 1801 to 1803 he was Associate Judge of Dauphin County. He died in 1804 and was buried in Paxton Church Graveyard.

William Maclay married in 1769 Mary Harris, eldest daughter of John Harris, founder of Harrisburg, and he assisted John Harris in laying out the City of Harrisburg.

Mr. Maclay also built a stone house in Sunbury at the time he was living there.

Julian Millard
District Officer