

Garcia-Dummitt House  
279 St. George Street at  
St. Francis Street  
St. Augustine  
St. Johns County  
Florida

HABS No. FLA-129  
HABS  
FLA.

55-SAUG

28-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## GARCIA-DUMMITT HOUSE

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Street Address: 279 St. George Street at St. Francis Street,  
St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida

Present Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Konrad, 279 St. George  
Street, St. Augustine, Florida

Present Occupant  
and Present Use: Tourist hotel known as "St. Francis Inn"

Statement of  
Significance:

The house was probably built by Gaspar Garcia between 1791 and 1798 (cf. chain of title below). In 1836 the building was bought by Colonel Thomas Henry Dummitt, a wealthy sugar planter from Barbadoes and New Haven, Connecticut, who was forced to abandon his 3000-acre plantation near New Smyrna due to the Seminole wars. Colonel Dummitt and his family were the most prominent occupants of the house. General William Joseph Hardee, a Dummitt brother-in-law, occupied the house during the War between the States. After the war, the house had a succession of owners and served first as a private boarding house and later as an inn under various names.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:

1791	Gaspar Garcia ( <u>Escrituras</u> 1801-1802. East Florida Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.)
1798	Mateo Guadarrama (op. cit.)
Between 1798-1824	Various owners, property was involved in variety of litigation in transfer to English and subsequent Spanish claims.
1824	Dirk Fleishman (St. Johns County Records)
1830	Walter Smith (St. Johns County Records, Deed Book 1)

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1842 Thomas H. Dummitt  
(St. Johns County Records, Deed Book "O,"  
pp. 410-411)

1855 William Hardee  
(St. Johns County Records, Deed Book "P,"  
p. 416)

1888 John Wilson  
(St. Johns County Records)

Between A. E. Pilgrim and Fred A. Hendrick  
1888-1925 (St. Johns County Records)

1925 Thomas A. Graham  
(St. Johns County Records)

1950 Ralph G. Moody  
(St. Johns County Records)

1954 Henry L. Konrad

(NOTE: All of the above furnished by Henry L. Konrad.)

2. Date of erection: Probably between 1791-98.  
(NOTE: No house appears on the lot in the Mariano de la Rocque Map of 1788.)
3. Architect and builder: Unknown.
4. Original plans: None known; unlikely of recovery.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: Dummitt rehabilitated the house in 1842 - extent of alterations unknown. Mansard half-story probably added and interior alterations made probably in 1888.
6. Important old views: None before 1888 when house probably assumed present form.

B. Sources of Information: Mr. Henry L. Konrad, who has had professional research made of the property.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural interest and merit: The first two floors of the Garcia-Dummitt House are representative of St. Augustine domestic architecture of the Second Spanish Period.

2. Condition of fabric: Well maintained.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Number of stories: Two-and-a-half.
2. Number of bays: Four bays by five bays (St. Francis Street).
3. Over-all dimensions: 37'-8 3/4" x 50'-5 1/2".
4. Shape: Parallelogram.
5. Foundations: Masonry (coquina) block.
6. Wall construction: First and second floors are constructed of coquina blocks laid in roughly horizontal courses plastered inside and out. (NOTE: "Coquina" is local shellstone quarried on nearby Anastasia Island and used for construction in St. Augustine since 1580.) Mansard half story is wooden framed.
7. Porches: Two wooden balconies at second-floor level; one along garden (north) side supported by turned wooden posts; one at southwest corner supported on brackets.
8. Chimneys: Three coquina and brick chimneys.
9. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Simple masonry openings with plastered reveals; wooden exterior doors are all replacements of various types.
  - b. Windows and shutters: In general, two-over-two, double-hung, wooden sash. (Some one-over-one, double-hung, wooden sash replacements probably installed when building was extensively remodeled in 1888.)
10. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: Mansard roof with asbestos shingles. (East elevation wall is flush.)
  - b. Cornice: Boxed cornice (probably created when mansard floor was added c. 1888).
  - c. Dormers: Eight frame dormers.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: Irregular six-room plan.

2. Stairways: Two wooden stairways: the main flight in entrance hall, and a secondary flight in stair hall.
3. Flooring: All wooden board replacements.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.
5. Doorways and doors: All wooden replacements of various types.
6. Trim: Simple unmolded wooden trim or wooden trim with backband; some late nineteenth-century pilaster trim with rosette blocks.
7. Hardware: All common late nineteenth-century and twentieth-century replacements.
8. Lighting: Modern electric fixtures.
9. Heating: Central heating.

D. Site:

1. Orientation: Entrance now on north (garden) side - probably originally on south (St. Francis Street).
2. Outbuildings: A small (20' x 29') two-story building in garden to northeast, said to have been slave quarters during Dummitt occupancy. Later it was used as a kitchen and is now a guest house.
3. Enclosures and landscaping: Walled grass plot and garden on north. Access is from St. George Street. No formal landscaping. Informal planting, fish pond, etc.

Prepared by Henry C. Edwards  
Architect, National Park Service  
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