NEW YORK, Dec. 16—The lynching of Wilder McGowan in Wiggins, Miss., November 21, was the culmination of the pentup anger of local whites against an innocent man who had refused on numerous occasions in the past, to accommodate himself to the attempts of white ruffians to frighten Race citizens of the town, according to an investigator's report made public here Friday, Dec. 9.

McGowan was lynched after members of a white mob accused him of attacking a Mrs. Murray, an elderly white woman living between the towns of Wiggins and Perkins- ton, Miss., on the night of Sunday, Nov. 20.

The report, which was made public by Walter White, executive secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., is contained in a letter which White sent to Senator Pat Harrison, senior senator from Mississippi.

According to the report, which was made by a southern white man, the woman said she was attacked by a “light-colored Negro with slick hair at around eight o'clock in the evening.”

The Lynch Victim

McGowan is described as a man of dark brown complexion. Describing McGowan’s whereabouts at the time he was alleged to have attacked Mrs. Murray, and his being sought by the mob while he was totally unaware of what was going on, the report has the following to say of McGowan’s relationship with the local white hoodlums of the town:

“It is generally known that McGowan was completely innocent of the crime for which he was put to death and that the alleged crime was merely used as an excuse to lynch McGowan because he was a Negro who ‘did not know his place.’

“We are informed that he was manly and refused to be intimidated by the ruffianly whites of Wiggins and had on several occasions been engaged in altercations when they sought to abuse and mistreat him; that on one occasion when a mob of armed drunken whites in an automobile ordered all the Negroes to run McGowan refused to do so and was attacked by the mob.

“He fought back and took a revolver from one of the white men, whereupon the mob let him alone. However, they bitterly resented his refusal to let them treat him as they wished.”

In his letter to the Mississippi senator, Mr. White described him as a member of that group of senators “who did not favor passage of the anti-lynching measure, repeatedly stating that such legislation was not needed as the states themselves could and would prevent lynchings and bring the lynchers to justice.”

McGowan is the fourth person to be lynched in Mississippi and the seventh to be lynched in the South during 1938.