

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0059625

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 8 1975
DATE ENTERED	APR 21 1975

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Searcy House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2606 8th Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Tuscaloosa

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VII

STATE

Alabama

VICINITY OF

CODE

01

COUNTY

Tuscaloosa

CODE

125

CLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

William M. Cochrane

STREET & NUMBER

2301 Glendale Gardens

CITY, TOWN

Tuscaloosa

VICINITY OF

STATE

Alabama

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Probate Office, Tuscaloosa County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

714 Greensboro Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Tuscaloosa

STATE

Alabama

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Searcy House is a two-story frame structure with a full basement and heavy square proportions. The full width two story portico consists of six square panelled columns which are also found on two similar Tuscaloosa houses built in the 1830's, but were possibly added to the three houses a short time after their original construction was completed. The center columns are linked by a small balcony with delicate balustrades.

Originally the facade was covered with wide unlappped boards, but in the early 1900's this was replaced with narrow siding. At the same time the gabled roof was reworked and three triangular dormers were added.

The front entrance consists of double door with six panels each and is surrounded by lights and a transom. A single door with smaller sidelights opens onto the balcony.

There are three end chimneys on the house; two exterior chimneys on the west and an interior chimney on the east. Facade windows are widely spaced, two on either side of the doorway on both floors, and have six panes per sash.

A wide central hall divides the four rooms of the first floor and is approximately one foot lower in the rear half of the structure. The stairway, a half turn with landings, is located in the center of the hall. The front rooms measure 20' x 20' while the rear rooms measure 20' x 15'. The basement consists of five finished rooms, one of which served as the original dining room. Woodwork throughout the house is exceedingly simple and the ceiling is unusually low measuring only 9 feet in height.

When first constructed, the house may have been only one room deep with the rear rooms added at a later date.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 1830's; 1890-1910 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Searcy House is one of the older structures in the city of Tuscaloosa and served as the residence of two prominent Alabamians, Henry Minor and Dr. James T. Searcy.

The house was constructed around 1830 as a town house for Henry Minor, a member of the state's first constitutional convention in 1819, and a prominent political figure in the early days of statehood. In 1823, after serving as a reporter on the Supreme Court, he was elected a Supreme Court Justice and served for two years. Upon being defeated for reelection in 1825 he was made clerk of the court, a position he held until his death in 1839.

Minor's family retained the house until 1857 when it was acquired by Ann Ross. In 1868 Mrs. Ross's daughter married Dr. James T. Searcy who occupied the house with his new bride.

Searcy, a native of Tuscaloosa, received his medical training from the University of New York and in 1887 succeeded his father as president of the Board of Trustees of the Alabama Insane Hospital. Searcy was a close personal friend and a follower of Dr. Peter Bryce, whose early recognition of the principal of non-restraint in the treatment of insanity placed him among the leading alienist of his time. In 1892 Searcy succeeded Bryce as superintendant of the hospital and continued to carry on his work. Searcy was highly regarded throughout his career, retiring in 1919 shortly before his death.

In 1910 the house was sold to W.B. Chandler and passed through several hands until the present owner acquired it in 1959. The Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society plans to acquire the house and restore it.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clinton, Matthew William. Tuscaloosa, Alabama: It's Early Days, 1816-1865. Tuscaloosa, Alabama, The Zonta Club. 1958.

Owen, T. M., History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1921.

Smith, Sydnie Keene. "The Antebellum Architecture of Tuscaloosa". Master's Thesis, College of Arts & Sciences, University of Alabama, 1929.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .25 acres *U.S.M. 32 000*

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>16</u>	<u>446410</u>	<u>367410</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

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

W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

DATE

March 31, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

TELEPHONE

832-6621 or 6622

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery,

STATE

Alabama

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.

SIGNATURE

Nilo B. Howard, Jr.

TITLE SHPO

DATE April 2, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

A. R. Mortensen

DATE

4/21/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles Adams

DATE

4.17.75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

acting