

PH0010235

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| STATE: Alabama | |
| COUNTY: Mobile | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| 70-2-01- 87 601 | 2/16/70 |

1. NAME

COMMON: Barton Academy

AND/OR HISTORIC: Barton Academy

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 504 Government Street

CITY OR TOWN: Mobile

STATE: Alabama CODE: 01 COUNTY: Mobile CODE: 097

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Board of School Commissioners of Mobile County

STREET AND NUMBER: 504 Government Street

CITY OR TOWN: Mobile STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Mobile County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: South Royal Street

CITY OR TOWN: Mobile STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Building Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1935 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

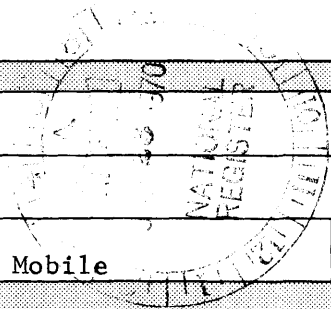
STATE: Alabama

COUNTY: Mobile

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE



7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | | |
| DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE | | | | | | |
| STYLE: | GREEK REVIVAL | | | | | |
| PLAN: | <p>Rectangle with protrusions. Entry Hall extends to front with open portico above. Single small rooms extended to rear of corners. Original plan had central stair hall with stair running from ground to cupola. One large classroom on each side of central hall with office in small rooms at rear corners. This arrangement typical for first two floors. Third floor divided into four rooms plus office on each side of central stair hall.</p> | | | | | |
| MATERIALS & METHODS OF CONSTRUCTION: | <p>Stuccoed brick exterior walls, wood floor joists and girders supported on wood columns. Corbeled brick footings. Stuccoed cornice carried by limestone slabs cantilevering from exterior wall and counterweighted by roof trusses. Wood cupola and lantern. Low pitched roof originally tin clad.</p> | | | | | |
| EXTERIOR APPEARANCE: | <p>Symmetrical composition. Three stories with lowest floor slightly heavier than upper two. <u>Doric pilasters</u> run from second floor to cornice all four sides. Central portico extends to front at entry; enclosed at ground floor with open porches, second and third floor. Six Ionic columns run from second floor to cornice and support low pitched pediment. Deep overhanging cornice with parapet above all four sides. Heavy drum and cupola, with dome surmounted by lantern. Twenty-eight wood Ionic columns around cupola. Exterior walls stuccoed and scored to simulate large scale stone.</p> | | | | | |
| SCALE AND PROPORTION: | <p>Typical stout Greek Revival appearance. Cupola and drum extremely heavy to successfully compensate for foreshortening when seen from ground.</p> | | | | | |
| INTERIOR APPEARANCE: | <p>Plaster walls and ceilings on split lath. Ground floor stucco over brick. Other floor yellow pine. Back banded door and window trim. Exposed interior columns of wood, Doric Order. Cupola only portion retaining any original finishes.</p> | | | | | |
| IRON WORK: | <p>Massive cast iron gateways, posts cast in the form of bundles of elm and birch bound with leather thongs containing an ax and blade fascies. Fifteen slender lances of iron between each post. Wrought iron railings over entry portico at both first and second floor porches.</p> | | | | | |
| PRESENT: | <p>Renovation 1968-70 nearly completed. Completely new interior plan. Exterior sand blasted and painted. East and West wings were extended to sides and rear in late 19th Century. Structure bolstered and extended to rear in 1913-14.</p> <p>Principal facade remains unchanged.</p> | | | | | |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

IV. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Barton Academy, completed in 1836, was the first public school in the State of Alabama. The school was named for Willoughby Barton, a member of the Alabama Legislature and sponsor of the act which created the Board of School Commissioners for Mobile County, Alabama's first local board of education.

The land for the building, a part of the Price Tract, was acquired on May 25, 1830.

Henry Hitchcock, Alabama's first attorney general, headed the committee appointed to secure plans and establish the school. A large part of the money used to construct the building ^{came} from Hitchcock's private fortune.

Private and denominational schools were held in Barton Academy from 1836 to 1851. The Mobile School Commissioners appropriated money to these Catholic, Methodist, Trinity and Bethel groups, as there were then no purely public schools in Mobile County or anywhere in Alabama.

The Mobile school authorities were the first in Alabama to provide a definite income for the support of public education. This income was derived from land grants and fines and a tax on the sales of slaves, livestock, and other commodities. There was also a license tax on shows, theatres, and similar amusements. These funds were supplemented by revenue raised by a lottery. Barton Academy was built with funds raised partially by lottery.

Barton Academy became Alabama's first public school in 1852. The year before Mobile voters had the choice of selling the academy with the sale proceeds going to private schools or retaining Barton Academy and setting up a public school system. Mobile voters voted for public schools. Willis G. Clark, chairman of the school board, was sent to study the school systems in the Northern states.

The County Superintendent of Education has used a portion of the building for his office since 1857, except for 1925-26 and 1968-69 when building renovations were made. Certain other school administrative offices were located there when most of the building was used for classrooms.

Barton Academy continued to operate as a public school from 1852 to May, 1965, when decreasing enrollment brought about by shifting population patterns led to the closing of the classrooms. When current renovations are completed in March, 1970, Barton Academy will house all of the offices of its founding organization, the Board of School Commissioners of Mobile County.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brantley, William H., Jr. "Henry Hitchcock of Mobile," The Alabama Review. University, Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1952, Vol. 5, No. 1.
 Brown, Virginia P. and Helen M. Akens. Alabama Heritage. Huntsville: The Strode Publishers, 1967.
 Hamilton, Peter. Mobile of the Five Flags. Mobile: Gill Printing Co, 1913.
 Jackson, Walter M. and Marie Bankhead Owen. History of Alabama for Junior High Schools. Montgomery: Dixie Book Company, 1938.
 Summersell, Dr. Charles G. Alabama History for Schools. Birmingham: Colonial Press, 1961.
 _____ Files, Board of School Commissioners of Mobile County.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | OR | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|----|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
| NW | 0 . . " | 0 . . " | | 30 ° 41' 18 " | 88 ° 2' 52 " | |
| NE | Occupies entire block | | | | | |
| SE | 30 41 18 | 88 2 52 | | | | |
| SW | 0 . . " | 0 . . " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.766 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|----------------|------|---------|------|
| All in Alabama | 01 | Mobile | 097 |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director, Alabama Historical Commission; Margaret R. Ingate, Mobile; Michael Fazzio, Architect, City Planning Comm.

ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission DATE: January 14, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: 305 South Lawrence Street

CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Wils B. Howard Jr.

Title: Chairman, Ala. Historical Commission
State Liaison Officer

Date: January 15, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest Allen Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: FEB 16 1970

ATTEST:

William J. Mustangh
Keeper of The National Register

Date: FEB 17 1970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS