

PH0007056

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

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:	Madison
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	OCT 16 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Clemens House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: ~~St. Church Street~~
Clinton Avenue, West, Southeast corner of Church and Clinton

CITY OR TOWN: Huntsville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 5

STATE: Alabama

CODE: 01

COUNTY: Madison

CODE: 089

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input 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"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>City Utilities will restore for offices.</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Huntsville Utilities

STREET AND NUMBER:
112 Gallatin Street, S.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Huntsville

STATE: Alabama

CODE: 01

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN: Huntsville

STATE: Alabama

CODE: 01

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

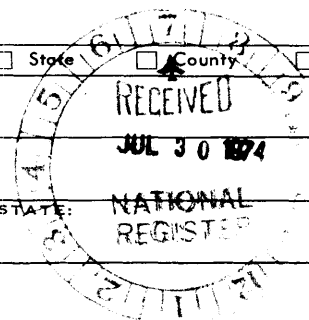
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER: OCT 16 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Clemens House is a two story brick structure with a limestone foundation which is partially exposed. The main block of the building is rectangular, measuring 52' by 37½'. A one story service wing which measures 38' by 15' is attached to the S.W. corner.

The hipped metal roof features an overhanging cornice supported by large triple brackets interspaced with smaller paired brackets. Similar treatment is given to the portico. Two interior chimneys are located in the main section of the building and there is one interior chimney in the service wing.

In the center of the facade is a small wooden portico supported by four slender wooden colonnets. Stone slabs at the entry porch appear to be the remnant of an earlier, smaller stoop. The central entrance door is topped with a segmental arch transom which is ornamented with a stamped metal lintel.

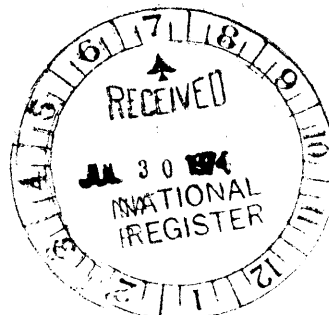
Windows are double hung with two large lites per sash and have decorative lintels similar to the one above the entrance. These lintels are apparently of high lead or tin content as there is no rusting. Directly above the entrance is a double or paired window which is longer than the other windows of the facade and extends to the roof of the portico.

Windows on the east and west elevations have similar treatment. The service wing has unornamented double hung windows with 6 lites per sash. The roof of the wing has been raised two feet from the original roof line.

The first floor interior consists of two rooms on either side of an entrance hall. The front rooms measure 20' x 20' and have cast iron mantels, while the rear rooms measure 15' x 20'. The main stairway is located on the right of the front hall and a service stair is located in the rear hall. A similar room arrangement exists for the second floor. Flooring for the second floor consists of 6" to 8" wide boards, and the right rear bedroom doors are of a six panel design with a beaded edge.

The service wing consists of three rooms, with the rear room having an Adamesque mantel.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



3. 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 type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Clemens House was the residence of Jeremiah Clemens, a leader of the opponents to secession in the Alabama Convention of 1861 and later an outspoken advocate of peace during the latter months of the Civil War.

No date for the construction of the house has been determined. Although the house as it presently stands is a fine example of mid-nineteenth century architecture, courthouse records and several architectural elements suggest that the house may have been built in the 1830's with a major remodeling done in the 1850-1875 period.

The property was purchased in 1838 by James Clemens who migrated from Kentucky in 1812. His son Jeremiah was born in 1814.

Jeremiah Clemens, who was educated as a lawyer, had a lengthy political career which was interrupted at several points in order that he might serve in the military, first against the Cherokee Indians and later in the Mexican War where he was promoted to a Colonel.

He was appointed as the U. S. Attorney for the northern district of Alabama by President Van Buren in 1838 and represented Madison County in the State legislature in 1839, 1840, 1841, 1843, and 1844.

In 1849 he was elected to the U. S. Senate and served through the Thirty-first and Thirty-second congresses. He then briefly took up residence in Memphis to assume the editorship of the Eagle and Enquirer. He returned to Alabama and served as a member of the secession convention of Alabama in 1861, where he was opposed to immediate secession, preferring what was known as the cooperationist stance. The Cooperationist, largely from the northern section of the state, felt that Alabama should delay secession for the time being and cooperate with other Southern states. After Clemens ascertained that the ordinance of secession would pass by a large majority, he voted for it, giving the following statement: "I am a son of Alabama; her destiny is mine; her enemies are mine...calmly and deliberately I walk with you into revolution."

During the Federal occupation of Huntsville his Unionist sympathies grew. Traveling to Philadelphia he conducted a pamphlet campaign advocating the re-election of Lincoln. He returned to Huntsville before the end of the War and died a few weeks after peace was declared.

In addition to his political and military careers Clemens was the author of several novels.

After his death the house was tied up in estate until 1874 when it was purchased by Duncan Sherman and Company. The property then passed through several hands until was recently sold to the Housing Authority.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McMillan, Malcolm C., The Alabama Confederate Reader. University of Alabama Press, 1963.

Owen, Thomas McAduy, History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography. S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago, 1921.

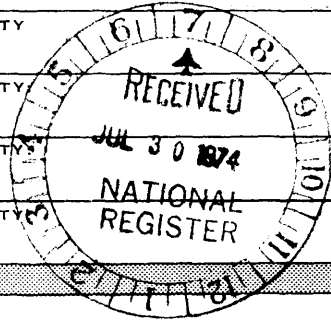
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	° ' "	° ' "		34 ° 43 ' 48"	86 ° 35 ' 17"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less Than 1/2 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission DATE: July 19, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
725 Monroe Street

CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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 Miss B. Howard Jr.

Title SHPO Ala.

Date July 25, 1974

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

A. B. W. [Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/16/74

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Date 10 11 74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS