

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Rather, John Daniel House

and/or common Locust Hill

**2. Location**

street & number 209 S. Cave Street na not for publication

city, town Tuscumbia na vicinity of congressional district 5

state Alabama code 01 county Colbert code 033

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Dr. T. A. Surratt

street & number 901 E. 4th Street

city, town Tuscumbia NA vicinity of state Alabama

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Colbert County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Tuscumbia state Alabama

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title H.A.B.S. has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1934-present  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington state D. C.

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Locust Hill is a Federal Style brick two-story house with a rectangular five-bay front with ell. It has a gable roof with a wide overhang and box cornice, brick dentils, and gable-end chimneys. Its 13" thick load-bearing, handmade brick walls, in a flemish bond, and painted white, sit on a brick foundation with a full basement. It has an asphalt gable roof, with a hip at the rear. A one-story porch, with shed roof, runs 3/4 of the length of both the front and north sides. It has nine turned spool-shaped posts with elaborate Eastlake trim, including square panels with a carved floral design, acorn pendants, and brackets. It has a railing with square balusters alternating with spool-shaped pieces and horizontal elements. A "pergola" (arch with vine-covered trellis) is located at the south side entrance to the library.

The main entrance at the center of the front facade is double leaf, single light doors, with moulded trim and transom. There are three other entrances at the rear, the main one being double leaf, each with 14 lights, side windows and transoms. All windows are 2-over-2 sash with green shutters.

### INTERIOR

Two original mantels survive; one on the first floor, which is Adamesque; and one on the second floor, which is a more simple Federal-style mantel. They are hand-carved by a local craftsman, Andrew Braden. Two other later mantels, one Classical revival and the other Victorian, have repalced the originals. Walls are horeshair plaster over lath. Window and door casings, and baseboards, are moulded, and chairrails are found in several rooms.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1823 **Builder/Architect** unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Locust Hill is significant as one of the earliest remaining residences in Tuscumbia, as the home of a noted local politician, and as the home of a local author and artist. Constructed in 1823 for a planter and his wife, William Hooe and Catherine Winter, it is noted for its use of Flemish bond brick on two faces (west and south) and its fine Adamesque mantels, reputedly crafted by Andrew Braden, a local cabinet maker. Later a fine Eastlake veranda was added to the house.

\* \* \* \* \*

In 1823 William and Catherine Winter from Prince William County, Virginia constructed this fine house. It served as the headquarters of General Florence N. Cornyn (USA) in 1863. In 1865 it was acquired by Capt. John Taylor Rather, and repaired as a residence. Rather was an early Alabama settler and politician, serving as deputy sheriff of Madison County in 1812, and 1815. In 1820 he was elected a representative for Morgan County in the state legislature and was re-elected nine times. In 1835 he was chosen a member of the state senate and in 1841 ran for congress as a Whig. In 1865, he was commissioned to represent Morgan County in the Reconstruction convention. Rather occupied the house with his son, General John Daniel Rather, also a noted politician. The younger Rather served in both houses of the state legislature both before and after the Civil War. He also served as Vice-president and President of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. The house remained in the Rather family until 1978 when Mary Wallace Kirk, a locally noted author and artist and the granddaughter of General Rather, died.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Gamble, Robert. Alabama H.A.B.S. Manuscript. Unpublished draft copy in files of Alabama Historical Commission  
 Kirk, Mary Wallace. Locust Hill University of Alabama Press, 1975.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property c. 1

Quadrangle name Tuscumbia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	6
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4	3	6	0	2	0
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3	8	4	3	1	8	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Includes house and grounds under one ownership  
 Tuscumbia city lots 416, 454, and 455, each lot measuring 132' x 165'. See attached map.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code NA county NA code NA

state NA code NA county NA code NA

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellen Mertins and Barry Loveland

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date May 1981

street & number 725 Monroe Street

telephone 832-6621

city or town Montgomery

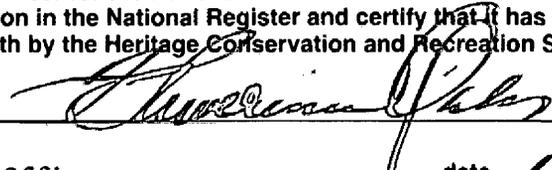
state Alabama

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

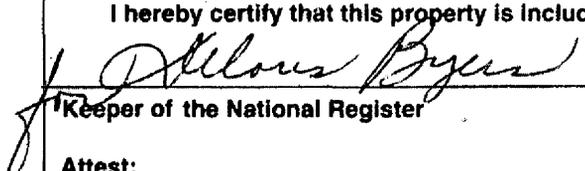
State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 11-10-82

For HCRS use only

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

  
 Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
 National Register

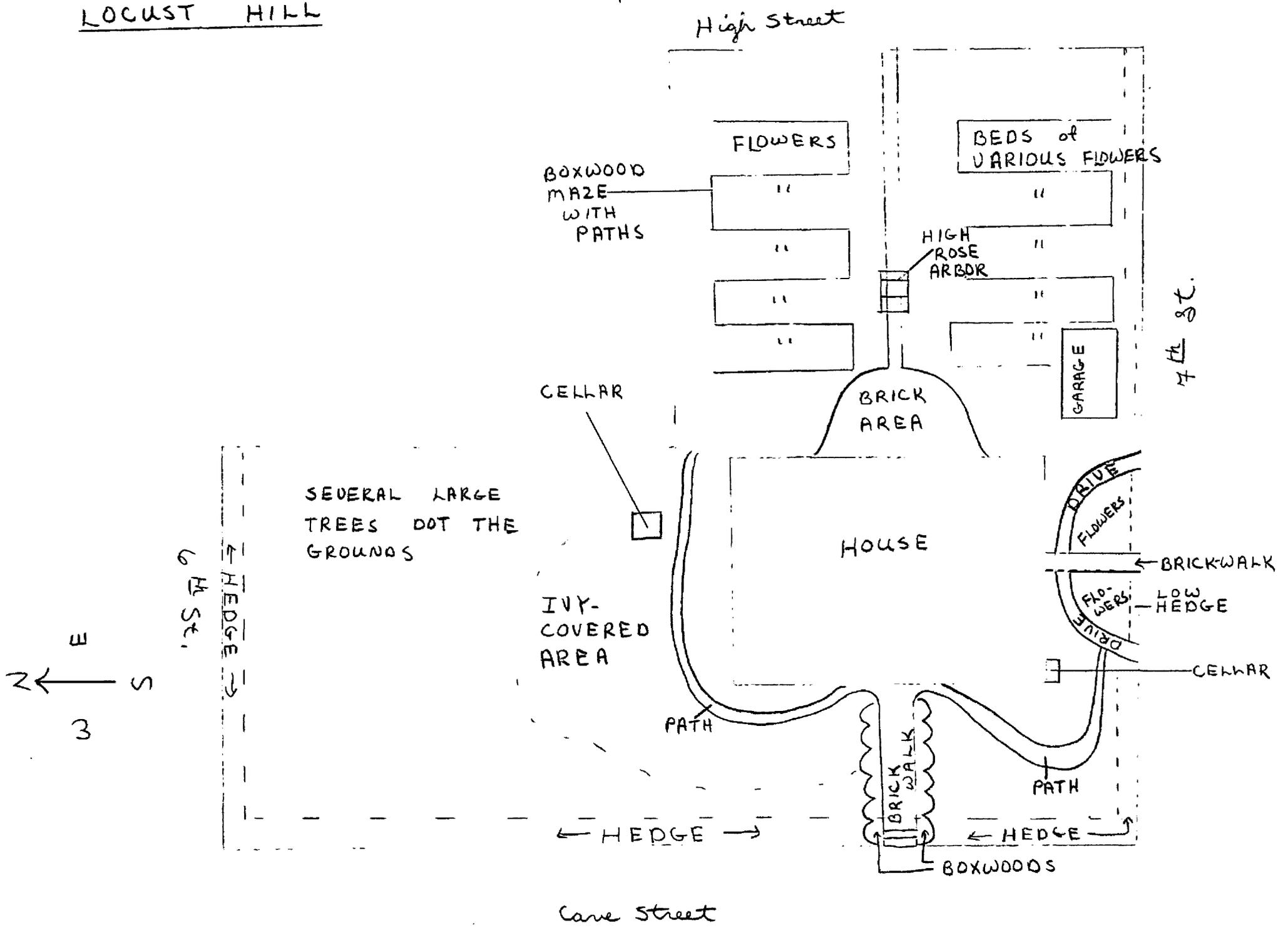
date 12/16/82

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

LOCUST HILL



High Street

FLOWERS

BEDS of VARIOUS FLOWERS

BOXWOOD MAZE WITH PATHS

HIGH ROSE ARBOR

7th St.

GARAGE

CELLAR

BRICK AREA

SEVERAL LARGE TREES DOT THE GROUNDS

HOUSE

6th St.

HEDGE

DRIVE

FLOWERS

BRICK WALK

IVY-COVERED AREA

DRIVE

LOW HEDGE

CELLAR

PATH

BRICK WALK

PATH

HEDGE

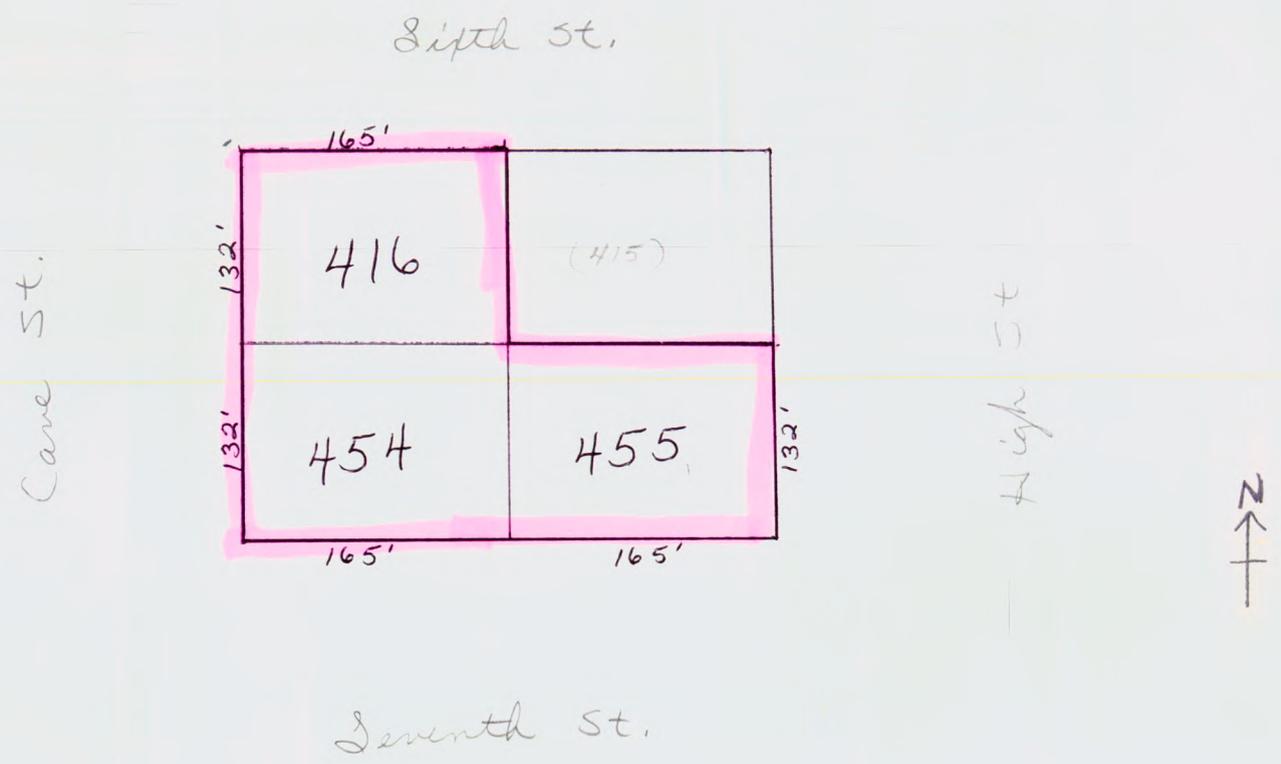
HEDGE

BOXWOODS

Cave Street

N  
E  
S  
3

Locust Hill  
on Tuscumbia city lots 416, 454, and 455



Sections 4 & 9  
Township 4  
Range 11