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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 8 1978
DATE ENTERED MAY 22 1978

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
 Hundley House
AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
401 Madison Street _____ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Huntsville _____ VICINITY OF 5
STATE _____ CODE _____ COUNTY _____ CODE _____
Alabama 01 Madison 089

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
City of Huntsville
STREET & NUMBER
Municipal Building
CITY, TOWN _____ STATE
Huntsville _____ VICINITY OF Alabama

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Madison County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
Courthouse Square
CITY, TOWN _____ STATE
Huntsville _____ Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Inventory of Huntsville Architecture
DATE
1976 _____ FEDERAL _____ STATE _____ COUNTY _____ LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Huntsville Planning Commission
CITY, TOWN _____ STATE
Huntsville _____ Alabama

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 Hundley House is a detached, two-story frame building with a full unfinished attic. It is rectangular in shape, measuring about 42' across by 75' deep, and has a round one-story bay on the facade and an angular bay on each side. The limestone foundations and front bay are of rock-faced random ashlar painted red. The first floor is sheathed with clapboard and the second is covered with square cut shingles; a band of scalloped shingles separates the two floors, and all are painted white.

The steeply pitched hipped roof is of pressed metal painted red with a large gambrel gable over the front bay which intersects with another gable on the south side. Smaller triangular gables terminate each side bay. There is a small gabled and shingled dormer on the front while the eaves are detailed with dentils and modillions. A one-story porch extends across the front to the bay, and clusters of three plain columns standing on panelled pedestals support the denticulated entablature and flat roof. Four tall, unadorned chimneys pierce the roof. The windows are double hung having a single large pane in each sash, although the upper sashes of the second floor windows have a pattern of leaded, beveled glass. The original leaded and stained glass windows of the stair landing and dining room have been removed and will be replaced when the house is renovated.

The front door has a large single pane of glass above a design of applied garlands. There are several additions to the rear of the structure, one of which was an elevator shaft; these were probably added by the funeral home in the 1930's and should be removed. The original stable has been replaced by a large, one-story metal garage, and the landscaped side yard on the south side of the house has been covered with asphalt for use as a parking lot.

The interior has a living hall with large fireplace and open stairway. The stairway has a full half turn with window seats on the landing and is decorated with dark wainscot and a panelled ceiling, as is the hall. Double pocket doors framed by fluted Ionic columns open into the parlor where the columns are repeated on either side of the mantel and of the window seats which flank the fireplace. Another set of ornately panelled pocket doors open into the dining room from the parlor. The mantel here is of yellow marble with carved monsters at either side, the ceiling is beamed, and there is wainscot along the lower walls.

The floors throughout are of hardwood laid in a variety of a patterns with a border design around the edge. The hinged doors throughout have transoms and heavy, classically detailed frames. The original brass hardware has mostly disappeared, but the large overmantel mirrors survive. Modern paneling has been used to divide the first floor into smaller rooms and to lower ceilings, but there does not appear to be any structural damage. The second floor, with its central hallway, has been much altered by the closing of windows and fireplaces.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
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 1899-1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hundley House is representative of fashionable domestic architecture in a small southern town at the start of this century. It is an amalgam of stylistic elements without being a unified statement of any single style. The rigid massing, vertical emphasis and fenestration typical of the Queen Anne are combined with the shingled surfaces and living-hall floor plan of the shingle style and the classically derived trim and gambrel gables of the Colonial Revival. The slowness with which rural areas accepted the new styles that were developed in the northeast is apparent by the presence of Queen Anne elements in this 1900 house and by the limited use of Colonial Revival-inspired features which did not become common in Huntsville until the first decade of this century.

Oscar Hundley who built this house as his residence also erected three other houses in the neighborhood, two of which exhibit a similar combination of stylistic elements. It is assumed that he employed the same architect for at least three of these four houses, but no architect has yet been identified. His own house was obviously a very elegant structure at the time as a local newspaper noted that it had "the most expensive and beautiful bathroom fixtures ever put in the city."¹

The house is also important as one of the last surviving examples of the large and costly Victorian homes which were built adjoining the commercial center of town. It is located on a half acre lot just one block south of the Public Square. Oscar Hundley purchased part of this tract, containing an old building, at auction in 1890 for \$2,200 and bought the remainder in two pieces in 1898 and 1900 for an additional \$2,200. The original structure was razed and by September, 1899, the newspaper reported that "the new residence was fast approaching completion."² In June, 1900, "the elegant new home of Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Hundley, on Madison Street, was thrown open for the first time."³

Oscar Hundley was born in Limestone County, October 30, 1854. He studied at Phillips Exter Academy in New Hampshire, graduated from Vanderbilt law department in 1877 and was admitted to the Alabama bar within a year. Hundley became very active in local and state politics being elected city attorney in 1882, 1884 and 1899. In 1886 and 1888 he was elected a state representative from Madison County and then served as a state senator from 1890 to 1897. President Roosevelt appointed him federal judge for the northern district of Alabama in 1907, and President Taft reappointed him to the position, but he failed to receive Senate confirmation and was replaced by Judge Grubb in 1909 after serving two years.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Illustrative and Descriptive Huntsville and Madison County, Alabama, Before, 1908,
Business Men's League, reprinted by T.H. Speegle, n.d.

Newspapers: The Weekly Mercury, 1899; The Huntsville Democrat, 1900; and, The Republican,
 1900.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Huntsville

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 53810510 38428210
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 59, Old Town, located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Madison and Gates streets, running 150' along each street.

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

Ellen Mertins and Linda Bayer

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery

DATE

February 22, 1978

TELEPHONE

(205) 832-6621

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Miss B. Howard

TITLE

SHPO Alabama

DATE

February 24, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Arthur Cole

DATE

5-22-78

DATE

5-12-78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

In December, 1909, Hundley sold his Huntsville residence for \$11,000 and moved permanently to Birmingham where he practiced law. The house was resold to a funeral home in 1930 and served as such until 1958. In 1959 the city of Huntsville purchased the structure and used it for city offices until 1976. It is now vacant.

¹The Republican, June 30, 1900, p. 3.

²The Weekly Mercury, September 20, 1899, p. 2.

³The Huntsville Democrat, June 6, 1900, p. 3.