

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PHO 677531

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 20 1979
DATE ENTERED APR 30 1979

**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

Alston-Cobb House
AND/OR COMMON

Alston-Postma House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

120 Cobb Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Grove Hill

VICINITY OF

1

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Alabama

CODE

01

COUNTY

Clarke

CODE

025

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER: vacant

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Postma

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 397

CITY, TOWN

Grove Hill

VICINITY OF

STATE

Alabama 36451

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clarke County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Grove Hill

STATE

Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

none

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built around 1854, the Alston-Cobb House is a two-story plantation plain style house located in the southwest Alabama rural county seat of Grove Hill. Though there are no ornate details, it is given a refined appearance by the symmetry of the facade and the delicate craftsmanship of the double veranda. The structure remains very near its original condition.

The house faces south and is situated near the front of a large wooded lot at the intersection of two heavily travelled federal highways. Located close to the center of town, it is surrounded by commercial property, except for a well-kept residence on the west. There is a potential threat of demolition to allow for the construction of a commercial structure or the razing of the property for a used car lot.

Typical of its style, the house is a five-bay, two-story frame structure with clapboard siding, a gabled roof, two exterior end chimneys, and a full-width double veranda. It rests on brick piers and has a composition asphalt roof. It is built on a central hall plan, with two rooms over two in the main section and an original one-story two-room lean-to wing across the rear. Another lean-to wing was attached to the rear at a later date. There are no outbuildings remaining on the lot.

Though the structure is built in a folk style, its facade has a refined character. The full-width double veranda, the most ornate element of the house, has a shed roof which is supported by slender modified Doric columns. A carved cypress balustrade, with an undulating scroll-like pattern, wraps around the balcony and possibly was added at a later date. Though the front entrance has been altered, it originally had double wooden doors surrounded by a transom and sidelights. At the present time, there is a single-leaf door flanked by wide panels containing a 6-light sash above and wooden sections below. The original transom remains. On the second floor, a single-leaf door leads to the balcony. On each side of the doors, at both levels, are two symmetrically arranged floor-length windows, with those on the ground floor being slightly larger. Originally, the facade windows had three sashes with six panes each, but the sashes were altered to contain only two panes each.

The east and west elevations are alike, having exterior end chimneys rising about the ridge of the roof gable. At both the first and second stories, there is one window on each side of the chimney, with the original 6/6 sashes intact. Those on the ground floor are slightly larger than those above. One small window also opens into each side of the original lean-to wing.

On the rear, the house is entered through the lean-to addition. There is a central shed-roof porch leading to a single-leaf door which is flanked by two small windows, with two similar windows located on either side of the porch. On the second level of the main structure, just above the ridge of the lean-to roof, there are three small casement windows.

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 20 1979
DATE ENTERED	APR 30 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The interior is built on a simple central hall plan, with two rooms over two in the main portion of the house. The hall also extends to the rear of the original lean-to wing. It contains two small rooms, one that is entered only from the east front room and the other which opens into both the hallway and the west front room. The wing which was added is very shallow and consists of a wider central hall leading into a bath and a kitchen. Originally the house had matching entrances at the front and rear, and the original double doors, flanked by a transom and sidelights, remain at the end of the central hall. A simple straight-run flight of stairs leads to the second floor, where there are two bedrooms opening off the central hall. The floors throughout the house are of heart pine and are original. The wall covering has been altered, and presently is board and batten. Plain wooden trim decorates the doors and windows. The mantels are of pine and have a slight Greek Revival influence, with modified Doric pilasters supporting a panelled entablature and a mantel shelf.

The house is currently vacant, but it has been maintained in a good structural condition. Through the years, alterations have been made to provide comfortable living conditions, but few major changes have been made. The main entrance and facade windows were replaced, probably around the turn of the century, and the rear wing was added to provide space for kitchen and bath facilities. Though there are no plans for restoration at the present time, the current owner has expressed an interest in maintaining the integrity of the structure.

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/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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1854

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built around 1854, the Alston-Cobb House is a notable example of a simple, yet handsome two-story plantation plain style house and is one of the few structures of its kind remaining in Clarke County. Its basic structural elements are typical of locally crafted homes of the period, but a more refined character appears in the pleasing symmetry of the facade and the delicate craftsmanship of the double veranda, a feature commonly found in the Gulf Coast region. As the residence of physician Lemuel L. Alston, it was one of the finer homes built in this southwest Alabama rural county seat during the antebellum years.

Lemuel L. Alston grew up on a Clarke County plantation which had been settled by his grandfather around 1827. Around 1852, he opened a medical office in the nearby town of Grove Hill, and during that decade he was one of only two physicians in the area. Two years later, he married Sarah F. Jackson, of the nearby community of Gainestown, and is believed to have built the house in Grove Hill at this time. It is also thought that he maintained his medical office on the property, though no evidence of the structure remains. The house was sold to Alfred Y. Bettis in 1867, when Alston moved to Orrville, a Dallas County community in Alabama's Black Belt region.

Alfred Bettis was the son of Judge Zachariah L. Bettis, probate judge of Clarke County. After studying medicine at the University of Louisiana in New Orleans, the younger Bettis returned to Grove Hill in 1861 as a physician. In 1867, he acquired the Alston House, and like Alston, is believed to have located his medical office on the lot. A decade later he had moved to a plantation in the northern part of the county and by 1882 had left Clarke County for Texas.

Around 1880, the house passed to Enoch S. Cobb, a wealthy landowner whose father had settled in Clarke County in the 1830's. When Cobb died in 1891, he willed it to his youngest son, Jesse M. Cobb, and it remained in the Cobb family until the mid-1970's. Though the house is currently vacant, the present owner has expressed an interest in maintaining the integrity of the structure.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Finlay, Louis M., Jr. Personal inspection, Summer, 1978.

Pugh, Minnie May. "Families Connected with the Old Cobb Home." Unpublished article, August, 1978.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .4 acre LONGITUDE 87 47' 34" LATITUDE 31 42' 33"

QUADRANGLE NAME _____ QUADRANGLE SCALE 1 inch = 2 miles

UTM REFERENCES

A [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

D [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

E [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

F [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

G [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

H [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the northwest corner of the intersection of Cobb Street (U.S. 84) and Jackson Street (U.S. 43), proceed approximately 90 feet in a westerly direction along the northern boundary of Cobb; thence approximately 200 feet in a northerly direction; thence

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

Sally Moore

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

DATE

March 12, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

TELEPHONE

(205) 832-6621

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery

STATE

Alabama 36130

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

Wils B. Howard, Jr.

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

March 14, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

4-30-79

ATTEST:

Charles M. Brown
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/27/79

Charles M. Brown
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 20 1979
DATE ENTERED APR 30 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 2

approximately 90 feet in an easterly direction; thence approximately 200 feet in a southerly direction along the western boundary of Jackson to the point of beginning.

RECEIVED
MAR 20 1979
NATIONAL
REGISTER

