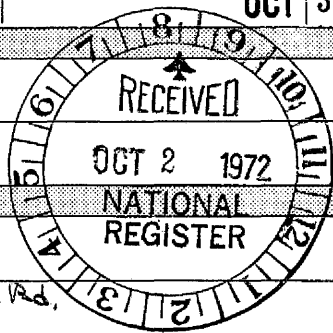


PH0010057

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: ALABAMA	
COUNTY: LIMESTONE	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 31 1972



1. NAME

COMMON:  
Belle Mina

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Belle Manor

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
South of Belle Mina on the  
CITY OR TOWN:  
mooreville - Cleaton Rd.  
Belle Mina Ala

STATE: Alabama CODE: 01 COUNTY: Limestone CODE: 083

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mrs. Thomas A. Bowles

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Belle Mina STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Athens STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings 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:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

OCT 31 1972

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

The architectural style of Belle Mina follows the general form suggested by the Richmond Capitol of Virginia from a design submitted by Thomas Jefferson. Several of the quadrangle buildings of the University of Virginia suggest themselves as prototypes for the building form.

2 1/2 form

The front full portico of the house has six Doric columns not regularly spaced because of the use of a late Georgian entrance which influenced the column spacing. The detail and trim of the interior and exterior of the house is also in the late Georgian (Federal Period) style of the locality in this period. The basic design form and decorative detail is very similar to that which exists in the State Bank building of nearby Decatur, and it is likely the bank building was erected by some of the same workmen.

There exists an oral tradition that the structure was erected with a balustrade at the top of its hipped roof; however, no trace of this is now evident.

The structure of the house is load bearing brick masonry interior and exterior walls with wood intermediate framing. The portico columns and return pilasters are timber-cored brick masonry.

The house is formally planned with a broad axial hallway on the first and second floor from front to rear. The most outstanding architectural feature of the plan is the introduction of a semi-circular exterior wall which receives the main stairway and forms the rear west wall of the lower and upper hallway. This wall required the construction of a complex stair frame and double-hung sash and frame conforming to the radius of this wall. The service rooms were located in a single story "ell" to the left of the formal axis of the plan and perpendicular to it. There was no interior access to these three service rooms which were joined to a secondary first floor stair hall by a covered veranda running in front of the service rooms. The terminal room of this service wing was the kitchen.

The house has undergone minor alteration and minor restoration. The partitions between the service rooms have been removed and an interior doorway has been cut through the masonry wall connecting a modern kitchen which was added between the original dining-room and the exterior wall of the first service room. The front veranda of the service wing has been rebuilt. Baths and closets have been added within the interior of the second floor bedrooms. A small amount of trim and shelving with wainscot paneling has been added to the left front room of the first floor. Otherwise, the interior trim, mantels, and wainscoting are well executed examples of the late Georgian style common to early 19th century houses of the Tennessee River Valley.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

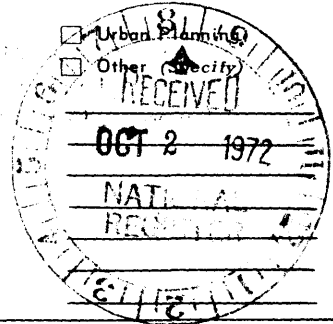
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian;       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       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"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  |
| <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

Thomas Bibb, owner and builder of Belle Mina, was a native of Amelia County, Virginia. He was the son of William Bibb who played an important part in the early history of his country, having been a member of the Committee of Safety of Prince Edward County in 1775, and a captain in the Revolutionary Army.

In 1808 Bibb made his first trip through Alabama via Mobile and the inland river transportation system. On his return from New Orleans, he stopped in Limestone County and purchased 2500 acres of land. He married Pamela Thompson in 1811 in Huntsville and soon after returned to Limestone County, where, in 1826, he built Belle Mina.

The territory of Alabama was authorized by Act of Congress on March 2, 1819, to form a state constitution, and when the constitutional Convention met in Huntsville on July 5, 1819, Thomas Bibb represented Limestone County. He was also a member of the 15-man committee selected to draw up the constitution.

The Alabama Territory held its first state elections in September, 1819, in anticipation of Alabama's admission into the Union. William Wyatt Bibb, formerly the territorial governor, was again selected to hold the state's highest office. His brother Thomas was selected to represent Limestone County in the Senate, and was afterwards elected to the presidency of that body.

William Wyatt Bibb was inaugurated on November 9, 1819, and Alabama gained statehood on December 14 of that year. On July 10, 1820, however, the governor died of tuberculosis following a riding accident. Thomas Bibb, by virtue of his office as president of the Senate, became the second governor of Alabama. Bibb held this office until December, 1821, and did not choose to run for re-election. In 1828-29 he was elected as a representative to the State legislature.

He died on September 20, 1839, was buried at the family cemetery at Belle Mina, and was moved twenty years later to the Maple Hill Cemetery in Huntsville. His will stated his wish that the house be given to the eldest son in each generation. This was the case until 1940 when the house was sold out of the family.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Alabama Members, National League of American Penwomen Historic Homes of Alabama and Their Traditions. Birmingham: Southern University Press, 1969.

Hammond, Ralph. Ante-bellum Mansions of Alabama. New York: Bonanza Books, 1951.

Historic American Buildings Survey. No 16-303, Alabama 42 BELMI

Owen, T. M. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1921.

Summersell, C. G. Alabama. Birmingham: Colonial Press, 1961.

**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° 38' 41"	86° 52' 51"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **9 square acres**

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: **August 31, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**305 South Lawrence Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Montgomery**      STATE: **Alabama**      CODE: **01**

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

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Milo B. Howard Jr.</u></p> <p>Title <u>SLC</u></p> <p>Date <u>September 8, 1972</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert W. Wiley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>10/31/72</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>William M. ...</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>10.30.72</u></p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS