

5-23-73

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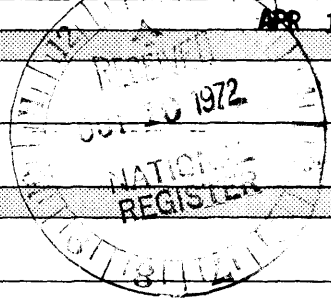
Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

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:	Hale
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1973



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Magnolia Grove

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
West end of Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Greensboro

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Alabama	01	Hale	065

**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"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PUBLIC ACQUISITION: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered			
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 checked="" 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)
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC (Yes): <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
State of Alabama

STREET AND NUMBER:  
State Capitol

CITY OR TOWN:  
Montgomery

STATE:	CODE
Alabama	01

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Greensboro

STATE:	CODE
Alabama	01

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Building Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1935

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:	CODE
D. C.	08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

APR 11 1973

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

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(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered

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(Check One)

Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Magnolia Grove is an excellent example of Greek Revival architecture and is widely known for its dignity and simplicity. Located at the end of Main Street and surrounded by a cast iron fence, the house is set in a grove of large magnolia trees.

The main block of the house is rectangular, measuring 53'7" across the front and 42'2" on the sides. It is constructed of red handmade brick laid in Common bond. The entire facade is plastered and painted white. Six massive Doric Columns support the unadorned pediment and pilasters receive the portico where it returns to the building proper.

Four windows cross the upper floor and are double-hung, with six lites per sash. An equal number of windows cross the lower floor. Beneath the lower windows is a small section from the sill to the floor which is hinged and opens inward, allowing the windows to function as doors.

The central double door is topped with a transom and flanked with side lites. Pilasters support an architrave. The balcony above is supported by two curved brackets and enclosed with a wrought iron balustrade. A door similar to the main entrance gives access to this balcony.

Windows on the north and south elevations are regularly spaced and have flat arches as lintels. The roof is gabled and there are two end-interior chimneys on either end.

Across the rear of the house is a two story veranda supported by small fluted iron columnettes resting on brick and concrete piers.

The interior is divided by a wide central hall. Its main feature is a curving stair. There are two square balusters per tread. On the base of each step is a string ornament. A chandelier hangs from a large plaster medallion of acanthus leaf design.

To the right of this hall are the living room, now used as a museum room, and a small study. The living room measures 19'8" x 24' while the smaller room to the rear measures 19'8" x 12'. Across the hall to the left are the front parlor and dining room which are symmetrically divided. A similar floor plan exists for the upper story.

Sometime before 1930 two wings were added to the rear of the house.

The original kitchen house stands a few feet behind the mansion. It is constructed of brick and consists of a main floor, reached by the stairway, and a half raised basement. On the south side the gabled roof overhangs to form a veranda which is supported by four columns.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

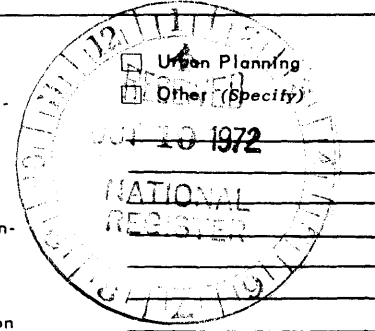
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                             |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |  |   |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Magnolia Grove was the birthplace and home of the Spanish-American War Naval hero, Richmond Pearson Hobson.

The home was built in 1835 by Colonel Isaac Croom for his wife, Sarah Pearson Croom who was the sister of North Carolina's Chief Justice Richmond Pearson. Croom was a planter and legislator. Upon his death in 1867, the property passed to his niece, Sarah Croom who married James Marcellus Hobson, a state legislator, probate judge for 18 years, and postmaster. They had four sons and three daughters. Their son, Richmond Pearson Hobson, gained international renown.

Richmond Pearson Hobson was born August 17, 1870. At the age of fourteen he entered the Naval Academy at Annapolis, graduating first in the class of 1889. He was the first Southerner to achieve this ranking after the War Between the States. He did postgraduate work at the Ecole Nationale Superieure des Mines and the Ecole d'Application du Genie Maritime in Paris and became the first American to achieve the highest scholastic award at either school.

While serving with the North Atlantic squadron in 1898, Hobson participated in the bombardment of Matanzas and San Juan, Puerto Rico before becoming a national hero at Santiago, Cuba on June 3, 1898. At Santiago, he conceived the idea of sinking the collier Merrimac at the entrance of Santiago harbor so that the Spanish fleet under Cervera would be bottled up inside. Under Spanish fire, Hobson and his men sunk the Merrimac. Unfortunately, the ship did not sink crossways in the channel and Cervera was able to escape. Hobson was captured but was exchanged a month later. For his heroic action Hobson was given a vote of thanks by Congress immediately and awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. In 1903, Hobson resigned from the Navy and entered politics serving as a U. S. Representative from 1907-1915. In 1914 he was defeated by Oscar Underwood for the United States Senate. Hobson was a prominent author and lecturer. He wrote books on naval construction, naval supremacy, prohibition and diplomacy. He lectured throughout the country on these subjects. Mementos from his career are housed in the museum room at Magnolia Grove, where he lived until his death in 1937.

In 1943, Magnolia Grove was designated a state shrine and became the property of the State of Alabama. The brother and sisters of Hobson continue to live in the mansion which is open to the public.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Hammond, Ralph. Ante-Bellum Mansions of Alabama. New York, Bonanza Books, 1951.  
 James, Joseph H. "Richmond Pearson Hobson" The Alabama Historical Quarterly, Volume 5, Number 4, Winter Issue, 1943. Wetumpka Printing Company, 1944.  
 Kendrick, Jack E. "Alabama Congressmen in the Wilson Administration" Alabama Review, Volume XXIV, October, 1971. University of Alabama, 1971.  
 McBride, Emily Raymond. Historic Homes of Alabama, Birmingham Publishing Company, 1935. Southern University Press, 1969.  
 Moore, A. B. History of Alabama-Alabama Book Store, Tuscaloosa, 1951.

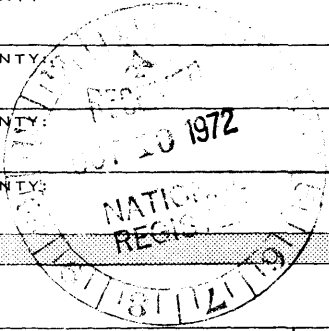
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	32° 42' 25"	87° 36' 53"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	32° 42' 25"	87° 36' 26"				
SE	32° 42' 12"	87° 36' 26"				
SW	32° 42' 12"	87° 36' 53"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **20 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: **September 25, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER: **305 South Lawrence 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: Milo B. Howard, Jr.

Title: SLO

Date: October 2, 1972

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

Robert M. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/11/73

ATTEST: [Signature]  
 Keeper of the National Register

Date: 4.3.73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS