

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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
Bass-Perry House
AND/OR COMMON
Magnolia Green

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

U. S. 431

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Approximately 4 miles ^{NE} ~~East~~ of Seale, Alabama

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Alabama

CODE

01

COUNTY

Russell

CODE

113

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Roy M. Greene

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 431

CITY, TOWN

Seale

VICINITY OF

STATE

Alabama

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds, Probate Office

STREET & NUMBER

Russell County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Phenix City

STATE

Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Building Survey

DATE

1934, 1936

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

CODE
08

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bass-Perry House, constructed in 1840-1844, has served three prominent Green County families. Built as the plantation home of Hartwell Bass, the house is similar to the Mitchell Home at Glennville, one of the state's most notable Greek Revival houses. The Bass-Perry House was completed one year prior to the construction of the Mitchell Home, and is much simpler both in scope and detail. Both A. K. Walker, a county historian, and family traditions, attribute the structures to the same unknown craftsman.

The two-story central block and the full length colonaded portico are covered by the hipped roof which rises gently. The flush siding of the three bay facade is terminated by slender pilasters. Four fluted Tuscan columns, a crisp entablature, and fine window treatment further distinguish the facade.

Windows of the first floor are 12 over 12 sash windows while those of the second floor are 9 over 9. Windows of both floors have paned glass side panels and molding identical to that of the two central double doors. Both doors have side lights and a transom. The fluted molding rises from corner blocks on the upper edge to meet a slightly larger central block. The central wrought iron balcony replaces an earlier full length balcony with square wooden balusters.

The remaining elevations are weatherboarded, and have corner pilasters and 9 over 9 windows with simple trim. The two interior chimneys are double and are flanked with fireside closets. Sufficient space exists between the chimneys to serve as a small passageway or storage space. The floor plan is the standard four up, four down with central hall and side stairway with landing. Trim throughout the interior is simple and the doors have six raised panels.

The house was renovated in the 1940's; several windows were added to the rear and side elevations, upstairs closets were converted to baths, and two additions were made. A porte cochere was added to the eastern elevation and a small sunparlor and screen porch to the western elevation. Both of these additions are in keeping with the style of the house.

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 1840-1844

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bass-Perry House, the work of an unknown craftsman, is one of the two finest plantation houses in Russell County and has served as the home of three of the county's most prominent families. Constructed immediately after the end of Indian hostilities in the area, the house was the nucleus of a vast cotton plantation, and its styling and craftsmanship reflect the taste and prosperity of its builder, Hartwell Bass.

The area from which Russell County was carved was the last major area of the state to be ceded from the Indians and consequently was relatively late in developing. Even prior to its creation as a county in 1832, settlers had long been acquiring and cultivating the land illegally. When later in the same year, the Creeks signed the treaty of Cussetta relinquishing as a tribe their claims to the land, the influx of white settlers increased.

Bass who had immigrated first from Virginia into North Carolina and later to Georgia, acquired his land from Paddy Carr, and Indian aide on the staff of the Creek Agency at Fort Mitchell. During the 1830's, friction between the Creeks and settlers, who in violation of the terms of the 1832 treaty were occupying and farming the land, cumulated in an outbreak of hostilities in 1836.

Removal of the Creeks to the west began in that year and in 1837 Bass was named as a trustee of the Good Hope Male and Female Academy. Three years later he began work on his house. Although the builder of the house is unknown, it has been speculated that both the Bass-Perry House, and the Mitchell Plantation at Glennville, were the work of a builder named Octunually.

Bass died prior to the completion of the house and work was taken over by his wife Elizabeth, known throughout the county as "the rich widow Bass". Mrs. Bass, along with her son-in-law, Patrick Henry Perry, owned controlling interest in a large saw mill located near the site of present day Seale, and Perry was instrumental in the founding of that town, which eventually became the county seat. At the death of Mrs. Bass, her daughter and Perry occupied the house, which remained in the family until 1939 when it was aquired by Hillary Mott.

Mott, who owned the mansion until 1968, was President of the Nehi Corporation and eventually became Chairman of the Board of Directors. He also served as the Director of the Southern Industrial Council of Nashville, Tennessee. In 1968 the house was purchased by Mr. Roy Green.

